WORLD / A26

Saddam cousin
'Chemical Ali' to be hanged for genocide

LIFESTYLE / C1

Festival of fearless
virgins to showcase fresh, daring plays

ACROSS / A18

New cities:
Tabuk, Batac and Borongan

ENTERTAINMENT / F9

Mutya ng Pilipinas '06
reveals secrets of Miss Universe tilt

Monday, June 25, 2007 44 11 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 197 P18

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

GREEN ART. National Artist Ben Cabrera (squatting at left foreground) and Mayor Edward Hagedorn look at a sculpted work by National Artist Napoleon Abueva at the Iwahan Watershed in Puerto Princesa City. Cabrera, Abueva and other noted artists joined Saturday's annual "Feast of the Forest" (Pinta F. Ang Kagubatan) celebration. [illegible]

Noted artists lead tree-planting feast in Puerto Princesa

By Redempto Anda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY— They began before sunrise. Droves of students, government employees, tourists and ordinary folk, hoisted to the garbage trucks sanitized for the occasion, descended Saturday on the lush-shrouded forest floor of Sitio Iwahan.

The event marked the 15th year of the city's annual tree-planting extravaganza that has become both a tourist attraction and a melody in environmental governance.

By daybreak, the crisp mountain air of the Iwahan hillside was filled with the aroma of freshly cooked rice porridge prepared for the volunteers and with the drums of live ethnic music by the local band Kaidia.

By the end of the day, an estimated 40,000 seedlings of indigenous acacia mangium and local tree species had been plan

[illegible] A11

Migz: I can take defeat, but how about Koko?

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Jocelyn R. Uy

"I'M WILLING TO ACCEPT DEfeat, but a lie walking to do the same?"

Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri of Isabela (TX3) yesterday passed this question to his bitter rival, Republican "Koko" Pimentel III of the Senate-Opposition (SO), as the eve of the crucial canvassing of votes in Maguindanao which would determine who between them would end up in the Senate.

In a phone interview with the Inquirer, Zubiri spoke of the most "trying time" of his life.

"I was prepared for anything when I decided to run for a national post, win or lose. What I did not expect was that dragged out vote count which is unfair because I have in custody all the time! Koko and his backers have threaten or me," the TU explained.

"It really hurts because my family has never cheated in my life through my election."

That he could win in Mindanao

[illegible] A11

GMA longs for return of OFWs

By Dimitri L. Lucas

SINGAPORE—PRESIDENT MACApagal Arroyo yesterday said her administration was working to make overseas employment optional rather than a matter of survival for many Filipinos.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum on East Asia, Ms Arroyo said that the government was investing in "human infrastructure," including book banks meant to improve the country's education and health care systems, on top of traditional infrastructure like roads and bridges. [illegible] story on Page A2 [illegible]

"We're proud of our OFWs

GMA LONGS A2

3rd general breaks silence on murders

Confirms 2005 discussion on killings of leftists

By Christian V. Esguerra

A THIRD GENERAL OF THE Armed Forces has come forward to confirm that killings of political activists were discussed "openly" in a top-level military conference about two years ago.

Speaking on condition of anonymity for security reasons, the general said he was present when two other generals discussed the military's course of action in the midst of the communist threat in key areas in Luzon.

One of the two generals, then with some 2,000 soldiers at his disposal, was assigned the topic "extrajudicial killings," according to the source [illegible]

He said the general who handled that topic tackled the idea of killing suspected communist insurgents and sympathizers even in places outside of his jurisdiction.

The revelation coincided with statements by Chief Justice Reynato Puno that the Supreme Court planned to call a multisectoral summit next month to discuss what role the judiciary could play in stemming the tide of political killings in the country.

Puno said the summit might redefine the concept of "command responsibility" to curb murders of human rights [illegible]

[illegible] A10

WALTER PESTIMALS

FIRE TRUCKS spray water on people crowding the streets of San Juan City in celebration of the feast of St. John the Baptist. (Getaway to Metro, Page A24.) A different kind of celebration swept through Barangay Bikutan in Silaga, Mayor Ric Ipe (below, left), with hundreds barbecue meat and steaming banana leaves. In Batangas, Batangas (below, right), pigs take center stage during the fiesta in honor of the patron saint. [illegible]

Palace, Left welcome summit on slays

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Cecilia B. Saldaña

IN WHAT SEEMED A RARE DIcurrence, some of the country's policymakers and opinions of the Left agreed yesterday on one thing.

They welcomed Chief Justice Reynato Puno's proposal for a broad-based summit next month to discuss extrajudicial killings—the course could undertake to curb political killings in the country.

Even on occasional critic of the Supreme Court, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, found some merit in the idea.

But reaction was lukewarm from the military—the main government unit involved in the problem of political killings—despite bygone efforts to contain its officials.

"We see no problem with that," National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales told reporters, referring to the Puno proposal. "Justice Puno's statements were good, we support that. I'm glad all branches of government are giving attention to this issue."

Backtracking also appeared supportive of the high court's renewed concern to again tackling presidential Executive Order No. 464, which has shielded President Macapagal-Arroyo's political and security advisers

PALACE A4

Fil-Am whiz kid receives Bush award

By Tarra Quismundo

HE WAS TEASED FOR BEING short, but when the Inquirer-tutored Filipino-American delivered his witty lines, the jokes died down.

Being different did not make Darren Dan, 10, or, for get straight: As of an elementary school in the city of Alpharetta in Georgia, earning him an [illegible] award from US President George W. Bush.

"It was exhilarating, exciting. I didn't expect it. I just don't expect things. ... they just pop in my box," Darren told the Inquirer on the phone.

FIL-AM A-17

Rosato or lomato? This tomato has floral, fruity smell

PARIS—ISRAELI BOTANISTS SURprise they have produced a genetically engineered tomato that has done well to date tests with the hint of lemon and a rose aroma.

[illegible] A18

Dropouts take DepEd alternative

By Elvira Maza

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A world beating champ in order to join the Department of Education's Accreditation and Equivalency (A&E) test and get a high school diploma.

You can avail yourself of the DepEd's Alternative Learning System (ALS), a practical option to the existing formal instruction for out-of-school youths and adults aged 16 years and over.

Since 2004, out-of-school youths have received at the center DepEd school division between June and November, and [illegible] all branches of government are giving attention to this issue."

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FIL-AM A-17

Second
FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

Quakes hit Taal as spa debate rages

By Nob Cantorna and Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

TWO MODERATE EARTHQUAKES YESTERDAY jolted Taal Volcano island as the debate over the planned construction of a health spa resort at the volcano's crater by a Korean company raged on.

Although the tremors alarmed some residents, seismologists said there was no danger of an imminent eruption. The earthquakes, just minutes apart, caused no injuries or damage, officials said.

Hundreds of farmers, fishermen and locals residing around the volcanic island are protesting the construction of a high-end spa and wellness center along the scenic volcano.

The ₱450 project by Korean firm Jung Ang Information Inc. would encroach on thousands of hectares of farmlands and fishing ground around the volcano, they said.

Government seismologists are also out here on the project.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) is opposing the plan since it would involve excavations that would permanently house people.

Phivolcs refused to position on the project to the municipal government of Talisay, Batangas, which asked for its agency's studies a hazard assessment of the spa project.

In an interview, Phivolcs Director Renato Solidum said the agency had advised against the building of "structures of permanent nature since these will put people at risk."

He explained, however, that "it is not an issue" for Phivolcs if "nonoccupant property will be developed" as land or on any other active volcano in the country. "Farming docks are okay and are very common," he said.

But it would be a different matter if structures were built "in the crater" for tourists, customers or workers to stay in overnight or for days, he said.

"Taal is one of the most active volcanoes in the country and a permanent danger zone, the main reason being the most dangerous part," he said.

Taal, a restricted park, has been under alert level 1 for showing "structural" activity since October 2006.

Considered the smallest active volcano in the world, it convulsively shows international and local tourists.

"Phivolcs does not encourage the construction of structures for permanent habitation in areas declared as permanent danger zones in all active volcanoes in the country," he said.

He noted that Taal's main crater had been "a very high-risk area" which saw destructive eruptions, particularly in 1754 and 1911.

Since 2005, Taal has been showing signs of restlessness.

Taal erupted wildly in 1977, causing no casualties or damage. A strong eruption in 1965 killed about 200 people living nearby.

Yesterday's quakes were felt by residents in the early morning. Its intensity 3 quake was recorded at 2:38 a.m., followed by another at 6: twenty 2 about a minute later.

Pensioners, led by the group Samahan ng mga Matandang Mamamayan sa Taliban ng Lawa ng Taal (Samatalan), said the spa project would not only destroy the rich natural resources of the volcano but would also kill the livelihood of more than 6,000 residents of the area.

On Sunday, the group estimated on a 1-km kilometer area in the highest point of the volcano in Barangay Leon to call on the government to immediately rescind the disastrous project.

The National Economic Mapping Technology Program (NEMP) has also asked Sec. Jaime Madrigal to initiate an investigation into the planned eviction of farmers on Taal volcano island to make way for the spa.

"Give us a forage fire go-see-only of land when it is prohibited by the Constitution! The land in question is also declared a no man's land and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) told them not to build structures there because it is a permanent danger zone," Willy Mabella, NEMP Imerbal deputy secretary general, said in a statement.

"We are talking about an active volcano, that is on permanent level zero and anytime until any deep digging may cause it to erupt," he said.

Mabella said the Department of Tourism had endorsed the Taal Volcano spa project.

According to him, the DENR-Economic Management Bureau (EMB) in Region 4A had issued an ECC for the establishment of a spa resort at Taal volcano. With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

JDV: House to probe charges of extortion for appointments

By Christian V. Esguerra

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA YESterday said he would institute a House inquiry over the accusation of outgoing Negros Oriental Rep. Herminia Teves that certain congressmen, members of the powerful Commission on Appointments, had engaged in extortion.

"I will have it investigated. We will look into the matter," De Venecia, who is with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Singapore for the two-day World Economic Forum, was quoted as saying by Rep. Raul Lee, House deputy secretary general for public relations and information.

On Friday, Teves accused unnamed members of the panel from the Lower House of extorting money from senior government appointees up to as much as P1 million in form their appointments denied.

Teves, 81, said his son, Senator Jovencio Magkasi Teves, was victimized by the group of congressmen he branded as the "Big Five."

The elder Teves said he would name names in the proper forum, such as in a congressional inquiry or an investigation by the Office of the Ombudsman.

Teves told the Inquirer that the lawmakers were demanded money from military officers up for confirmation before the CA.

"The money demanded depended on the rank to which a commander was being assigned," said Teves. "Supposedly the demand was bigger in places where, say 'jueteng' (the illegal numbers game) is rampant. The idea was that the lawmakers could easily raise the money from jueteng."

Teves' accusation heightened yesterday as he called for a moratorium on "mobilizing" in the wake of Teves' allegations, especially after De Venecia promised an investigation.

"We appeal to those who have accused our colleagues to cooperate and provide evidence to support their allegations instead of mobilizing their supporters in the streets," Negros City Rep. Mauricio Domogan said in a statement.

"Whether the probe is done by the House or another body is immaterial as long as an impartial investigation is conducted immediately the allegations arose," said Isabela Rep. Rodito Albano III.

"We are confident that members of the House committees in the CA can ably defend themselves and prove their innocence. On the part of the accusers, they should take advantage of the probe to prove their charges."

Military, MILF believe Bossi alive

DAMORTAO (27) —Although there is no proof yet, government authorities and Muslim rebel officials are confident that Italian kidnapped Italian priest Giuseppe Bossi is still alive.

Mr. Gen. Sebastian Ingalla, 34 Infantry Division commander, said Bossi is still alive despite the rumor of any proof.

"He is alive and we are intensifying all our efforts pouring all our resources to get him alive," Ingalla said.

Eid Kabalu, spokesperson of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), on the other hand, said that the kidnappers would not harm their captive as "Bossi is done only huge (to whatever is intend they may have) and they will keep them safe, too."

Chief Supt. Jesus Carlingal, police chief for Western Mindanao, has offered a cash reward to anybody who can provide information that would lead to the rescue of the priest.

Senior Supt. Pantaleon Ortenbal, police chief of Zamboanga Sibugay said they would give P100,000 to any informant who could provide the exact location of the abductors and their hideout.

"The reward has been offered since last week," Carlingal said.

The Italian government has also offered a similar reward.

Italian Ambassador Roberto Aniss Mobile said "economic packages would be given to the municipal that will help locate Bossi." with S. Dipala, Inquirer Mindanao

PRESIDENT Arroyo answers questions during the open forum at the opening of the World Economic Forum in Singapore. From left are Kim Byung-joon, chair of the Presidential Commission on Policy Planning, Republic of Korea, and George Yeo Yong-Boon, minister for foreign affairs, Singapore. KOH MUI FONG/AFP

GMA in Singapore cites reasons for RP progress

A DAY AFTER PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo proclaimed her Asian policy, Philippine business leaders in Singapore that "our economic growth is a work in progress," she attributed this to an unpopular but decisive tax reform package that was approved through by the leadership of House of Representatives.

In a dinner on the eve of the two-day World Economic Forum, Mrs Arroyo said the reform legislation capped by the expanded Value-Added Tax (VAT) enabled the Philippines to begin rebuilding its human and physical infrastructure to make it a global and regional economy.

The government was now investing in basic education, public health, and many reforms to increase access to human infrastructure and was building a network of roads, bridges and seaports and irrigation badly needed by surging foreign investment and globalization, she said.

In the same vein, in the area of peace, she lauded the proposal for an autonomous coalition that Speaker Jose de Venecia had submitted to her Cabinet immediately after the 9/11 terror attacks in the United States.

The autonomous coalition eventually became a Philippine initiative that brought together Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines in a commitment to fight the global and regional terrorists. The coalition was later expanded to include Thailand, Cambodia and Australia.

The President said De Venecia's proposal would formalize link the international community and the autonomous coalition with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization at the Shanghai Six composed of China, Russia and the four Central Asian republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

De Venecia had said a cooperation agreement between Asean and the Shanghai Six would help draw the flow of investors from Central Asia to Southeast Asia and also eventually assist countries in both regions to have relations effectively with religious extremists.

At the dinner where foreign secretary Alberto Romulo also spoke, De Venecia said how "Asean must make a choice between China and the United States."

He said the US and China "can live side by side, and both countries need each other's market" and "there is no way that Japan and the US did during the ups in East Asia's first wave of growth after World War II.

"Today we subscribe to economies, we cannot easily fight without formula contingencies with old client lawyers and solidarity endorsements. Workers will be really confused," said Romulo, who heads the PGMC Breast-feeding committee and helps maintain a breast milk bank for babies at its neonatal intensive care unit.

Law on breast-feeding urged

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TO FOSTER AND PROMOTE BREAST FEEDING, Dr. Gloria Ramirez of the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) yesterday urged the new Congress to pass a law requiring all companies to allot work breaks and nursing stations where mothers could collect their milk, store it, then bring it home or donate it to a milk bank.

She said all a company would need is a sink for washing hands, a refrigerator for storage and a private room where mothers could collect their milk. Mothers should be allowed to collect milk at least three times in a working day, she added.

To encourage companies to pay for the 20-minute breaks, they would be entitled to tax breaks depending on the number of lactating mothers working for them, said Ramirez.

She is also pushing for the integration of breast feeding in the school curricula.

"Unless our industries can measure, we cannot easily fight infant formula companies," said Ramirez, who heads the PCMC Breast-feeding committee and helps maintain a breast milk bank for babies at its neonatal intensive care unit.

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MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2007 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER A1

Gore presents award for RP water pump

By Carla P Gomez
Reporter

BACOLOD CITY—A WATER PUMP TECHnology in Negros Occidental that has brought clean water to 66 remote communities in 16 barangays in the country won for a local foundation and project its second consecutive green energy award in London Thursday.

Former US Vice President Al Gore presented the Ashden Award for Sustainable Energy, which comes with a 10,000-pound cash prize, to the Alternative Indigenous Development Foundation Inc. (AIDFI) based in Barangay Mandalagan here.

The group won one of 10 renewable energy pioneers from across the globe that were shortlisted for the Ashden awards. Conventions were held at the Royal Geographical Society in London on June 22.

First place went to the Pyramid Action group in Peru which installed micro-hydro plants for living electricity to about 30,000 people in remote villages. Third place went to Nepal's Centre for Rural Technology which upgraded traditional water mills so villagers would no longer have to grind grain into flour.

"Even if we did not win first place, the recognition we got has given a big boost to our work," said Madam Monica Aldill since its inception.

Monica said they would use the prize money to replicate the micro-powered pump in more communities.

Her pump technology, which harnesses the power of running water to lift water vertically, was developed 300 years ago but Aldill has enhanced it so that its components are readily available materials such as those things to transfer water up 200 meters or more locally to cost.

"Our installations have no operation cost since they have no need for electricity or fuel; they work on a 24-hour basis and profit is replacement a cheap," he said, adding that the pumps could last up to 20 years.

Aldill has solved the cost and maintenance problems that made many previous water projects in upland villages unsustainable.

Monica said Anke Idlango, who represented Aldill at the awards in London, had been meeting with many people interested in the cheap and friendly technology.

Aldill was founded in 1993 by Leonardo Idlango, a committed Negrense cause or priest, Idlango and several development workers to develop technology systems that could cater to humanity with nature and provide sustainable development for the poor, Monica said.

It was registered as an NGO in 1992 and now employs 13 people.

Aside from nine pumps, Aldill has been working to provide nine communities with micro-hydro plants for battery charging, biogas plants, fuel and fuel pumps, solar water heating and micro-wind power.

"The award is good because when we started it was like shouting in the desert when we talked about our pumps using renewable energy," Monica said.

"When we first introduced our cow pumps, people could not believe that the technology worked until they saw it in the villages they had been installed in," he said.

In Barangay Magallon, Isabela City, the village used to pay for the running of an electric-powered pump to bring water to homes from a distant spring.

Today, with their cow pump they do not have to pay for electricity to bring 11,000 liters of drinking water a day to 120 households, he said.

Monica said the pumps had also been introduced to training centers in Japan and Malaysia, and to a refugee camp in Thailand.

Now, with the international recognition given to Aldill, "we hope it will spur more local governments and groups to see our green technology to help more rural villages," he said.

COMANECI, scorer of the Olympics' first-ever gymnastics perfect "10," walks through Mass.

Nadia Comaneci arrives to deliver inspirational talk

By DJ Yap

NADIA COMANECI, THE FIRST GYMNAST to score a perfect "10" in the Olympics and one of the most celebrated female athletes of all time, arrived in the Philippines for the first time last night.

Comaneci is in Manila to give a motivational talk, together with celebrated Filipino boxing figure Paeng Nepomuceno, to employees of PBG Philippines.

Clad in a black-and-white floral dress and wearing long earrings, Comaneci arrived aboard Cathay Pacific flight 902 and was greeted by PBG Philippines president and chief executive Linnet Lafferty, who had joined the query star.

"I love them," she said of the outspoken gutsiest Lafferty and PBG officials placed around her neck in welcome.

In a preview of her inspirational talk, Comaneci encouraged Filipino children and their parents to take up gymnastics. She said Asian, Filipinos in particular, had the potential to be great.

"As long as you work hard, anything is possible," she said. "When I started, I had no idea it would be this big, and people would remember me like greatest," she told reporters.

But Comaneci, who at 45 still cuts a striking figure, said the Philippines had a distinct advantage when it came to gymnastics, a sport that features lithe and agile bodies. "The Philippines is known for pretty girls, isn't it?"

At the age of 14, Comaneci stunned the world when her routines at the uneven bars at the 1976 Montreal Olympics earned her a perfect score, the first ever in Olympic gymnastics history.

She went on to score six more perfect "10s" in that year by winning the all-around, beam and floor titles.

In a result of her exploits, Comaneci became the face of the Montreal Olympics, appearing on the cover of Time, Newsweek and Sports Illustrated magazines all in the same week, and inspiring countless girls to take up the sport.

Cops link actor's wife to Pasig drug mart

By Kristine L. Alave

ESTIMA (NONG) THE WIFE OF actor Ping Divino, had links to suspected Ping City shabu smuggling syndicate headed by Rodolfo Estima, an officer of the Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operation Task Force said yesterday.

ARCHOT Javier Bustos Mendoza and Estima had been on the police watch list because of her connections to Rodolfo and his wife Maria.

Rodolfo was the alleged owner of a compound in Ping City that housed 30 to 40 shabu dens which were raided by police on February 2006.

Rodolfo is now detained at the National Bureau of Investigation pending trial on drug charges while Maria is at large, although there is a pending arrest warrant against her for the murder of informant Norman Cobmas.

Mendoza said Estima was involved in Rodolfo's "rake" network and had links on the police for five years.

ARCHOT is currently conducting a further background check on the couple, particularly Estima, to establish her participation in the drug trade.

The Estima couple was arrested during raids two weeks while allegedly engaged in a shabu session in an apartment in Mandaluya Village, Taguig City. But police settled on Friday night. Three plastic sachets of suspected shabu were found in Estima's possession.

Taguig City police also arrested PO1 Abdulgafir Tahir, 28, who was assigned to PCP-2 of the Taguig City police, and Hadia Mayan, 39, a barangay policewoman.

Insp. Ariel Sail, intelligence chief of the Taguig police, said their forces were involved in the drug raids.

"Ayaw nilang yung si Estima ay harassment ng shabu (It's been rumored that Estima is involved in shabu)," Sail said in a text message to the reporter, adding that the suspect had been under surveillance for six months.

He added, however, the police had not verified Pelmar's links to the Mendoza personnels as Taguig's drug enforcement unit was still probing the couple's activities.

Estima, the older brother of actor Ruby Estima and a son of actor Dante Estima, refused to make any statement when his arrest.

Pelmar and the raids are detained at the Taguig police station.

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Palace, Left welcome summit on political slays

from legislative inquiries without her consent.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon had indicated he planned to invoke the controversial EO should he and other military officers be summoned by Senator-elect Antonio Trillanes IV to shed light on the unresolved killings under the Arroyo administration.

Presidential chief legal counsel Sergio Apostol said reporters: "We're willing to sit down with them and discuss what could be changed and what could not be changed."

'Don't touch it'

In a dinner with business editors on Thursday night, Panlo said the high court would welcome the opportunity to "tighten gray areas" in its 2000 decision upholding portions of EO 464.

But Arroyo's counsel said EO 464's main provision demanding prior consultation with Ms. Arroyo on any congressional appearance was non-negotiable.

"That should not be touched. This has already been declared constitutional by the Supreme Court," he said.

The Supreme Court had failed to reach debtease and military officials to get their testimony.

Gonzalez sounded receptive to the idea of a summit to help prevent political killings, saying it could lead to the speeding up of court processes.

A 2-bladed sword

But he also said that reviewing the core issues of "command responsibility" — one of the possible topics in the proposed summit—could be a "double-edged sword," and asked if it would lead to the Supreme Court itself being held liable for judges' errors.

The justice secretary said he was willing to attend and ask his boss to be present to discuss how the high court could use its expanded power under the Commission to protect civil liberties.

"If he'll propose rules of court to speed up the processes, that would be OK as long as it's not at the sacrifice of due process," Gonzalez said.

Asked whether he thought the high court might encroach on the powers of the legislature, he said he would have to first see the parameters of Panlo's suggestions.

He said he was sure to believe the Chief Justice was acting in good faith in proposing such a summit.

Turkish issue

"Let us assume the Chief Justice is acting in good faith, that what he wants is to help (implement) that book so that long-dragged out processes would be addressed," he said, adding that he was not against reforms.

As for revising the idea of "command responsibility," Gonzalez agreed that it would be a "redefinition" matter.

"There are issues on command responsibility. Will it mean that the mistake of a judge is also the fault of the Chief Justice? But we're talking here of command responsibility. Will it go that far? It could be a double-edged sword," he said.

Gonzalez also said the court's power to cite people in contempt should have limits, but he added that he did not think there would allow judges or justices to abuse such a power.

In discussing the new rules that the high tribunal could promulgate, Panlo floated the idea of imposing sanctions, like being cited in contempt, on officials who fail to follow standards in handling cases of forced disappearances.

World outrage

Panlo has condemned the extrajudicial killings, describing them as "the ultimate violation of human rights."

The human rights group Kalapatan has validated as from July 2 cases of political killings since Ms Arroyo took office in 2001. The figures tally, which only includes identified victims, stands at 207.

The killings have whipped up international outrage, even from some of Ms Arroyo's close foreign allies.

Panlo said the killings were an "assault on the rule of law" and an "indictment of the political system."

An official of the militant farmers' group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas described Panlo's summit plan as "encouraging."

"We will support it as long as we get the assurance that something will be done to stop the killings and abductions done by state forces against the people," said KMP secretary general Antonio Flavier in a statement on Sunday.

A time bomb

In calling for a summit focusing on violations of civil liberties, Panlo said the Peoples Supreme Court was "taking the bull by the horns."

"It is facing the problem head on, unlike Malacañang, which keeps skirting the issue and blaming the victims," he said.

Panlo hoped the summit would elaborate on checks to "re-enforce the civil liberties of the people and curtail the repressive powers of the state, especially now that (the assistance law) is about to be implemented next month."

He compared the civil rights situation in the country to a "ticking time bomb."

In an effort to stop the killings of militant farmers, Ramos said the KMP would

Corrections

IN THE MAY 29 ISSUE, an article on Page A1... "SP may forbid with regard to women's rights, Ubi says"—omitted one of the binding decrees of the United Nations Joint Program: to Facilitate the Implementation of CEDAW (UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women) Concluding Comments. Omitted from the list of donors was UN Habitat.

* * *

IN THE JUNE 23 ISSUE, a News story on Page A20... "Malate now 'sin' on street named after him"—erroneously described Apolinario Mabini as the "Brains of the Katipunan." He is known to be its Brains, he is the "Brains of the Katipunan" and Malate is the "Brains of the Revolution."

* * *

IN THE JUNE 21 issue, a photo caption on Page A6 misspelled the surname of the president and chief executive officer of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Her name is Isabel Pineda-Reinoldus—not Reinoldos.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Ace Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 185 Salcedo, Makati City, fax line 897-8745/46, e-mail address ace_desk@inquirer.com.ph.

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Abra mayor's wife dies one month after shooting

BAGUIO CITY—THE WIFE OF MAYOR KENNY Cosalan of Tineg, Abra, died on Sunday, more than a month after she was shot and wounded while observing the canvassing of votes for Tineg, the family's lawyer said.

Brenda Gardenas Cosalan, 47, died at St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City, said lawyer Emilio Cordero.

Gardenas and Cosalan suffered bullet wounds in the abdomen and shoulder after Vicky Bejasa, said to be a political rival of her husband, shot her in the Holy Spirit Academy in Bangued on May 27 during the canvassing of votes.

Bejasa was shot dead by soldiers and police moments after the attack.

"[Brenda] was unsafe the day morning [Sunday] and succumbing with some people in her hospital room when she suddenly expired," said Cordero.

The mayoral race in Tineg between Edwin Cosalan and Lenin Bonifacio, but yet to be decided. "We hope they can act on it, hopefully, by before June 30," said Cordero.

Frank Cimatu, Dagupan Bureau Lacson

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Tetangco: Peso stable but BSP ready in case of sharp moves

BASEL, SWITZERLAND—THE PHILIPPINE peso's value should be determined by market forces and the central bank would only intervene to act if there are sharp moves, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco said here on Saturday.

Speaking to Reuters, Tetangco also said the rise in global yields had not affected emerging market economies in Asia and inflation in the Philippines was likely to remain low, cautioning that market interest rates should not rise too much.

The peso rose to a six-and-a-half year high against the US dollar earlier this month, buoyed by strong inflows into the local market.

"I'll leave it to the local market to determine the value of the peso. I don't think we have a problem with that," he said.

Tetangco, however, said the BSP would step in if there were sharp moves in the rate (we will intervene) to reduce volatility," Tetangco said.

On the interest levies, the competitiveness of the peso hasn't changed as much, "he said.

Tetangco also said the BSP has enough room to cut interest rates and it's consistent with the policy of the BSP with some scope for BSP action to smooth out moves. If there are sharp moves in the rate (we will intervene) to reduce volatility," Tetangco said.

On the interest levies, the competitiveness of the peso hasn't changed as much, "he said.

Five-year benchmark yields in the United States and the euro zone crashed 5-year peaks this month, driven by expectations for 4Q surges growth.

"This increase in yields in the developed countries, particularly the US, has led to some increase in yields of emerging economies. But the impact has not been that big as far as Asia is concerned," Tetangco said.

"(The) credit and growth story is still intact. We haven't seen a significant widening of [credit default swaps] for example. Equity prices have remained the uptrend. The market is seeing growth in emerging economies is how is likely to continue and inflation will most likely remain domestic driven," he said.

On global interest rates, Tetangco said, "It's better to have early, relatively small adjustments [to interest rates] and it's started now," adding that he did not expect major sharp adjustments.

The Philippine economy enjoyed its highest annual growth in 27 years in the first quarter, thanks to healthy consumption and an expansion in back office [outsourcing] services.

Philippine consumer prices rose 2.4 percent in May from a year earlier, in the middle of the central bank's projection of 2.1 to 2.8 percent. Reuters

Fortune can sue Chato, SC rules

FORTUNE TOBACCO CORP. SAID HE SUPREME Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Lilia Chato for damages over her alleged order that imposed higher taxes on the firm's three cigarette products, according to the Supreme Court.

The high tribunal directed the Manila Regional Trial Court to continue with its case against Chato.

It said Fortune Tobacco's suit alleging that Chato violated its constitutional right against being deprived of its property without due process could continue even without any claim of bad faith against her.

Fortune Tobacco sued Chato for damages after the Court of Tax Appeals invalidated her memorandum circular reclassifying Hope, Champion and More cigarettes as locally manufactured cigarettes bearing foreign brands, thus raising to 55 percent the tax imposed on them.

Prior to the issuance of the circular, Hope, Champion and More were considered local brands subject to only 20 or 45 percent tax.

After the CTA ruled against Chato, Fortune Tobacco filed a complaint for damages against her before the Manila RTC.

Chato moved to have the case dismissed, but the suit was upheld and ordered by the Manila RTC, and later by the Court of Appeals. Chato then elevated the matter to the Supreme Court, which ruled against her as well. Lailah Antonette

Gov't mulls VAT on expressway toll

By Michelle V. Rosca

AS THE GOVERNMENT STRUGGLES TO COME short falls in tax collection, the Department of Finance said it was looking at imposing the 12 percent expanded value-added tax (VAT) on income from toll road collections.

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said the government would generate an estimated P1 billion in additional taxes annually by imposing the VAT on toll revenues from the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) and the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX).

He said other toll roads that may be subjected to the VAT are the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway and the Manila-Cavite tollway.

Beltran said there should be no legal hindrance to subjecting toll revenues to the VAT, explaining that there are no provisions in the VAT law exempting it from the tax.

The Comprehensive Tax Reform Law that took effect in the late 1990s enumerated a list products and services to be subjected to the VAT. In November 2005, the Informed VAT Law expanded the coverage of the tax to include services rendered by lawyers and doctors and electricity, among other things.

The law did not explicitly say if toll services would be covered by the VAT, Beltran said. But he also said that neither did the law explicitly say toll services were exempt from the tax.

He said that without a law explicitly saying that a product or a service was exempt from a tax, then it could be subjected to tax.

Asked whether tollway operators would be allowed to pass on the VAT to motorists, Beltran said it was the nature of the VAT to be passed on to end consumers.

In the first five months of the year, tax collections of the Bureau of Internal Revenue reached only P280.587 billion, or P28.6 billion short of its P314.208 billion target for the period.

For the full year, the BIR's tax collection target was set at P786 billion, consistent with the government's goal of trimming its budget deficit to P62 billion from last year's P94.6 billion.

The DOF said the BIR should implement measures to shore up revenue collection.

The government is hard-pressed to meet its deficit target this year and its aim of a balanced budget by next year, having made these commitments to the public, investors and foreign creditors.

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Gospel: Matthew 7:1-5

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Do not judge and you will not be judged. For as you judge others you will be judged, and the same measure you use for others will be used for you. Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and not see the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Come, let me take the speck from your eye,' as long as that plank is in your own? Hypocrite, take first the plank out of your own eye, then you will see clear enough to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

Commentary

Just as Jesus used our beginnings as a people who believe and belong to Yahweh God, abram is our plank or another word could be blessings of God. But he misuse already and pull up everything the way possessions, power. In abram's worship and movement of prayer was given the promise of Jesus as with Sichem way.

Jesus tells us how in this day to day with the people around us: not to judge others or what we say or would or does, will be our own. As we treat others, we will be treated. We are all one in the Lord. If we pass on quick to our others and to others, what about the huge mistakes, sin, evil, and sin does we do ourselves? If we are constantly intent on seeing evil in others, can we even begin to see the goodness of God's presence? Let today we look for ourselves, to love Myself and to be world.

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Migz: I can take defeat, but how about Koko?

From page A1

and how Nonoy should some accompanies to anybody around ng to Zubiri.

"In the surveys and exit polls, I won too. 2 in Mindanao. I beat him three to one in the last special elections where the vote was under control by all the watchdogs ... I even beat him in his hometown of Tagoloan de Oro, so how come he can't believe that I can win in the elections without cheating?"

Both TU and GD agreed the winner of the 12th Senate slot would depend on whether the Magsaysaysan votes would be counted or not.

Zubiri claimed he'd win by 25,000 votes if the Magsaysaysan votes were subtracted, while he would be behind by 80,000 votes if Pimentel succeeded in getting the Supreme Court to junk the Magsaysaysan results.

Zubiri wants proof

But Zubiri said he would still win if a new election was held in Magsaysaysan, assuming the previous Magsaysaysan certificates of canvass, or election returns, were nullified.

Zubiri said that Pimentel had yet to come up with solid proof that the Magsaysaysan votes were tampered with, aside from the "tension" that the opposition had been quoting.

"I wouldn't want to go for 'emotional' in the situation but what has more important was sticking to the facts.

"I really mean what they have been sticking for, if I lose, I'll accept my fate even though it would be hard considering that I'd be losing by just thousands, which would mean I could have done better had I campaigned harder in Luzon and not focused so much on the Visayas and Mindanao.

Plea for ceasefire

"But I'm asking him to do the same—for the Comelec [Commission on Elections] and the Supreme Court do their work and both of us should just keep quiet. There is a time for protest or even reopening the ballot boxes.

"Let's stop the senseless aging," he said. "All I'm asking of the public is to keep an open mind. Let us not judge people's work on hearsay ... based on their changes."

Pimentel has filed a petition with the Supreme Court to stop the canvassing.

Bedol out of picture

The "balasing" Magsaysaysan election supervisor Lintang Bedol is already out of the picture as far as the tabulation of municipal CoCs is concerned, COC lawyer Grace Bellaluna said.

The canvassing is scheduled for today in the Magsaysaysan capital of Shariff Aguak. Bedol is in the center of a controversy for several an allegations that the Magsaysaysan COC was manufactured evidence a 12.8 article administration candidates.

Bellaluna said Bedol's presence was no longer needed as the city's canvassing of votes because it would be continued by a special board of canvassers which the Commission on Elections, acting as the National Board of Canvassers (NBC), created.

The NBC has set aside the CoC which Bedol prepared after the May 14 elections, ruling that it was "materially impossible" for 19 candidates to get enough votes in the province.

Amparan bailiwick

Bellaluna claimed he could manage today had already been manipulated.

"In spite to, Ano na daw (I think all of it has been precooked). But we will go everything on record," he told the reporters.

Last week, the Comelec ordered that the tabulations be held to the provincial capital of Magsaysaysan—a bailiwick of the powerful Amparan political clan which is backing the Arroyo administration—after it affirmed that the municipal vote tallied presented by election officials as a Comelec-backed election mission were genuine and authentic.

Despite objecting to the decision, Bellaluna said another CoC lawyer, Lydia de Lima, have instructed to observe the canvassing.

De Lima earlier said that holding the canvass in Shariff Aguak was a way of making sure that the chain of the election municipal boards of canvassers, which 101 lawyers recalled on poll, would not be able to talk freely.

An unofficial tally showed Arroyo has Pimentel leading Zubiri by 111,561 votes, without the Magsaysaysan results.

A mere rumor

If Pimentel fails to get a temporary restraining order from the Supreme Court, Bellaluna said he would fight it out with the NBC when it reconvenes this week to tabulate the provincial tally.

"I can assure you something will happen in the NBC which they will all regret for a long, long time," he said ominously.

An opposition municipal candidate in Cotabato City, who lost in the elections, claimed she had information that Bedol burned all the original copies of the election returns so there would be no evidence of vote fraud.

"It was relayed to me from Manila that Bedol already burned all the documents after he proclaimed," defeated candidate Sorsi Ira Juliano told the inquirer. She gave no proof or back up her allegation, however.

A GO lawyer said the allegation was just "stored" (gossip).

With a report from Jonathan Mariano, Inquirer Mindanao

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Jan Roque on Health Partnership at The Medical City Adult Wellness Center

"My blood pressure reached a high of 140/110 in The Medical City During my consultation. I realized I would be taking care of me during and after the pregnancy in a safe place. My wife was with me the whole time

Medical team hits military harassment in Kalinga

By Alexis Papa, Manila,
and Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

A MILITANT HEALTH GROUP HAS CONdemned the harassment of health personnel by members of the military on June 10 and 11 at Balbalan province.

In a statement over the weekend, the Health Alliance for Democracy (Halad), a multisectoral organization of health professionals, health workers and students, said it received a report of health personnel in Kalinga being questioned and harassed by soldiers of the 51st and 77th infantry Battalions of the Philippine Army while conducting a clinic in Brgy. Ebel, Barangay Limocon, Balbalan, Kalinga.

The four-member health team was led by a doctor and a nurse working for Community Health Education, Services and Training in the Cordillera Region (Chesterm), a community-based health program in the Cordillera region.

They were attending to indigenous patients when the harassment happened, Halad said.

"The continuing intervention of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in medical missions and community clinics directly undermines the provision of much needed health services to the poor," said Dr. Gene Alcoba Hilgenio, Halad executive general.

Chilling effect

"The harassment sends a chilling effect to the health sector amid the continued exodus of health workers," he said.

Members of the mission also assailed the military for accusing them of being members of the New People's Army.

Dr. Ana Aleth Leung, Chesterm executive director, said despite Balbalan Mayor Allan Jesus Mangaoang's approval of their medical mission, the soldiers questioned the team about their activities, took their pictures and accused them of being communist rebels.

Exaggeration

Maj. Ferdinand Tuazon, spokesperson of the AFP's Northern Luzon Command based in Tarlac, urged the group to file a complaint so the incident could be investigated.

Tuazon said Chesterm's allegations might have been "exaggerated."

He claimed some soldiers were accused of committing human rights violations in Balbalan in the past and some left-leaning groups could be using these previous incidents to tie us to the military.

"Let this will not stop from disinvesting the military," he said.

Leung said that on June 16, soldiers accompanied the multipurpose staff at Sitio Ebel where the medical team, which included a local public staff, a biologist, were attending to patients.

"The soldiers even stayed until lunch to watch the staff eat. While they were eating, the soldiers took their photographs," Leung said.

She said the soldiers, led by a Corporal Bacon, insisted on getting the Chesterm staff's names and questioned them on their presence in the area.

Covered nameplates

Leung said the soldiers did not identify themselves and covered their nameplates.

She said the soldiers later called a community meeting in Sitio Pipi, also in Barangay Gawisan, where they claimed that a group of NPA rebels had held a meeting in Sitio Ebel and that four rebels were still in the area.

Chesterm members said the incident last week was not the first time the military had harassed the group.

In April 2005, they said soldiers confronted the Bawisan barangay hall while health workers were attending a seminar.

In August 2006, Leung said Mangaoang said her to get the 11th day permission before a Chesterm team could conduct the health of Balbalan's small scale miners.

INQUIRER

OPINION

'Puno't dulo'

TWO MONTHS AGO, IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "Into the breach," we called attention to an emerging trend in Philippine politics: the vacuum of leadership at the highest national levels, we said, was drawing even non-political leaders like Chief Justice Reynato Puno into the widening chasm.

"The gulf is so great that once firmly non-political figures like the Chief Justice must now provide leadership or see the perpetuation of the self-destructive indifference of the executive and legislative branches to the rule of law."

EDITORIAL

The immediate occasion of Puno's act of leadership was his warning that the US-led war on terror, in which the Philippines hosts a theater of operation in the so-called second front, was undermining civil liberties and, by extension, the very democracy it was supposed to protect.

Two months ago, in an editorial entitled "Scary," we also called attention to the breathtaking openness which, to our view, informed the Arroyo administration's strategy for surviving its crisis of legitimacy. We wrote then: "perhaps the administration strategy [in legal cases] is not an outright win, but ... 'only' a 'win-win' decision. That would allow the administration—fully aware of the Senate's reluctance to go to war, totally cognizant of the Supreme Court's slow, collegial decision-making—to proceed as planned."

In other words, the executive's political strategy was to use the legal process to buy time, precisely because of the deliberative nature of judicial decision-making. In a regime that has made a fetish of the principle of the presumption of regularity, time was truly gold.

The net effect of these new realities, however, has been a continuing erosion in the effectiveness of the rule of law. As a close look at the results of the mid-term elections reveals, the Arroyo administration's credibility deficit has continued to widen. And as the prospect of new legislative investigations into the scandals of 2004 and 2005 looms ever closer, the administration's strategy has continued to foster both cynicism and confusion.

It is in this context, therefore, that Chief Justice Puno's radically original idea of "enacting more rules" to protect civil liberties, especially in the midst of the continuing extrajudicial killings, should be understood.

The initiative—first raised on the sidelines of a Hong Kong conference three weeks ago, reiterated in a dinner with keynote editors and reporters last week—does not mean that the Supreme Court under Puno, a career judge, has suddenly revered left. It does not mean that the high tribunal (and we do mean the entire court, not only the Chief Justice, because we have reasons to believe that the idea was the product of a consensus) has become an activist court. And it certainly does not mean that the justices—all but three of whom were appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo—have joined the opposition.

If we understand the matter correctly, the new initiative only means that the Supreme Court has realized that the very rule of law is under attack, and that it must rise to its defense.

"We have been thinking about this because ... extrajudicial killings are an assault on the rule of law," Puno said. "It's an indictment of the judicial system, so we have to do something about it."

The initiative is based on a new power granted to the judiciary by the post-Marcos Constitution. "This is a new power given to the court under the 1987 Constitution," Puno said in Hong Kong. "We don't know how broad the power is. We don't know its parameters, but we are studying how we can further protect human rights by the exercise of this power."

The initiative's emphasis on human rights, therefore, is not driven by ideology but by two engines of change: the high court's new power, and the plague of killings. The court's resolve is not decisively is not judicial activism, as this term is usually understood; it is the judiciary's necessary response to a given threat. (Other legal experts, such as the English judge Patrick Devlin, have drawn a distinction between activism and dynamism.) And the initiative's potential to embarrass the Arroyo administration is not intentional, but the necessary byproduct of the process. In point of fact, Puno has emphasized his belief that the administration and the military hierarchy would welcome the new rules. That is why in the "summit" of problem-solvers he is calling next month, the three invitations go to Camp Aguinaldo and Malacañang.

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COA exposes anomalies at PLM

ALL IS NOT WELL IN THE PAMANTASAN NG Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM), in fact, something smells very bad, and it starts from the very top: from the Office of the University President and the Board of Regents.

The Commission on Audit has uncovered irregularities of graft and corruption, illegal disbursement of funds, overspending, illegal commissions and other anomalies. Have last year, PLM President Dorotheo Jose O. Villanueva has asked the Board of Regents to investigate these irregularities uncovered by the COA. But instead now, the Regents have yet done so. At last, since September 2006, when Villanueva was due years to the Board, the Regents have not even bothered to avoid starting any investigation, instead Villanueva.

Last May 21, Mayor Lito Atienza ordered the Board of Regents to investigate the anomalies. The failure of the Regents as seen since September 2006 "started when the President-Emeritus of the University Dr. Jose O. Vitug, formally requested the Board to conduct investigation on a number of anomalies in PLM," said Atienza. "This has given rise to the suspicion that the Board is not moving to avoid conducting an investigation. Not to investigate the anomalies might be interpreted as condoning corruption in the University, considering that most, if not all, of these anomalies are listed in COA findings contained in several Audit Observation Memorandum (AOM)."

Chief now, an review from the Board of Regents. The City of Manila funds the PLM and the board appoints the university president and the members of the Board of Regents from that box. Atienza cited the prolonged power struggle at an impasse, the hall is to his court. Faculty members say he should give the university president, Dr. Benjamin G. Tayabas, and all the members of the Board of Regents.

The perplexing fact is that the anomalies have been going on for years, and the president emeritus and the faculty have been complaining about them, and yet no step about them has appeared in media—until now, it became even more unconvincing when we consid-

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

er that members of warring journalists are employees as professors in the university. Was it only embarrassment in spite of, or because of, these journalists?

Another reason could be the alleged "multi-investment" of Tayabas. In a letter to the PLM community, Dr. Villanueva denounced himself with the alleged "multi-investment" of Tayabas "I refuse to be identified with Dr. Tayabas' vindictive rage and oppression against religious-universities affiliate, faculty and personnel (including a humble janitor)."

Some of the three anomalies exposed by the COA? Plenty. There would not be enough space in this column if we explained in detail all of them. There is space only for a very brief summary of some of them.

1. AOM 2006-4 (1)-006: Agreement between PLM and National College of Physical Education Foundation Inc. (NCPE). Illegally allowing a private institution to use the facilities of the PLM under a "unilateral decision of the president," Dr. Benjamin Tayabas, with no fair and equitable "mutually-beneficial arrangement to the University." The COA said the contract was not approved by the Board of Regents and that even if the memorandum of agreement was approved by the Board, "still the agreement would be disadvantageous to the University."

The COA also found out that Tayabas is principal incorporator of NCPE, a "clear conflict of interest" prohibited by existing anti-graft laws.

2. AOM 2006-4 (1)-007: Tayabas, the NCPE case bears a strong similarity of circumstances to the PLM and FMCA cases where P6.8 million of public funds were diverted to foundations organized by Dr. Tayabas which he both headed and where he sat as a member of both. Boards of Directors. I am still asking what is the PLM institution that was diverted.

3. AOM 2006-105: Rich Dimensions credit card payments representing personal accounts of Dr. Benjamin Tayabas amounting to P1,397,342.82). The claim for reimbursement is more than but representations amounting of P6,000 a month as university president which he gets regularly. However, during the period when he was relieved as University President (February 2006 to June 2006) records show that he received his emoluments with charged to and paid by the PLM."

5. AOM 2006-012-000: Fund disbursed to OPRES (Office of the President) more "extravagant and extravagant", "the cost of the products were doubled and sometimes tripled", "payments illegal, not properly documented and made to the wrong party."

Disavowal Dr. Villanueva: "Over and above these, the University President has a substantial amount of over P5,471,790.00 in the Pamantasan fund service for the year 2006. (This does not include the P500,000 fund service provided by the canteen to the OPRES).

6. AOM 2006-10 (+)17 ("Excessive and unnecessary expenditures for purchase of office refrigerator amounted to P341,918.82). "These expenses are apart from P1,208,263.47 paid to the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co." Some "45 percent or P388,000.70 of the telephone bills were charged to the PLM and to the office of the President alone." "Some unnecessary officials are using 2 to 4 units of cell phones." The prepaid cards alone, the investigation, P60,000.00 "requested and received by the PLM from the office of the President." "Their purchase was not in accordance with regular procurement procedure." "There is a showing of a favored supplier"—Ruth Cruz Enterprises, with address in Bulacan.

Unable to reach Dr. Tayabas, the phone several times for his side but every time they told me he was not available. I also send to get the names of the members of the Board of Regents but his office and they would call me back but never did.

The girl who cried wolf

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

YOUR COUNTRY IS NOW ONLY A BIT BETTER than the country of backward economies wherein powerful, selfish interests are able to exploit poverty and ignorance to maintain the status quo or impede open progressive development. ...

"You've doubled me to run for President during the election of 2004."

"Of those 7th among the principal figures in the divisive national events for the last two or three years, (It) were so much my political of the vote can only result in never ending divisiveness.

"Yourself removed of the hustle of politics, I can devote the last year and half of my administration to the following:

"First, strengthening economy, to create more jobs and to encourage business activities, unhampered by corruption. ...

"Second, healing the deep divisions within our society. ...

"Third, working for clean and honest elections in 2010.

"If we achieve these, my successor as President will be in a good position to lead the Philippines during the critical decisive steps for a strong and modern country.

"Thus, I appeal to each Filipino to help in this endeavor. Following the example of Jose Rizal, let us think of country and not just of self."

I remembered the speech shortly after I read about Gloria Macapagal Arroyo asking everyone, the media in particular, to only be kind law in her effort to leave a legacy to the nation. I knew I had heard those same words before. I knew I had heard Gloria tell the media she was no longer interested in politics but would spend the remaining time she had to do work for this country.

I remembered. And I was one of the first to give her the benefit of the doubt when she said that, praising her for her decision, saying what. ... anyone else might have committed in the past while supposed to stay out. Someone set of plans, with or without Dan Cut Packets, 10 Hail Mary's and seven Glory Bes. I remembered what I was also

Revisiting EO 464

Sounding Board

Fe Zamayla G. Reynoso, S.J.

AS DEMPSTER ELECT ANTONIO TRILLANES PRE-parers to take his case to the Senate, he has, hopefully, notable issue about which he intends to cite, but tells us that it will be "the special attention to only and to investigation of extrajudicial killings. And since investigations involve the calling of witnesses, among potential witnesses who have been identified as the Alfred Peron Chief of Staff, Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

But his past, Esperon, according to media reports, has made it known that he will invoke EO 464, the instrument through which President Macapagal-Arroyo attempted to delimit executive officers with a measure of uncertainty.

Promulgated last year, the Supreme Court came out with a long disquisition on the scope of the presidential immunity made available by EO 464. In effect, executive Esperon must henceforth, if he will?

EO 464 deals with two kinds of investigation, the "in aid of legislation" and the "question hour." In both cases, and two classes of officers, heads of executive departments and other executive officers. Department heads may not be summoned to a "question hour" without the blessing of the President, but no one, except the President and Supreme Court justices, may be compelled to appear before Congress in an investigation in aid of legislation. Does this latter that Esperon cannot escape confirmation with Senator Gloria Trillanes?

The answer is not a simple one; it involves a careful consideration of the "doctrine of privilege" as jurisprudence is called "executive privilege."

Executive privilege, as the phrase indicates, is the right of the President and high level officials authorized by her not to withhold information from Congress, from the courts, and ultimately from the public. The privilege is a function of separation of powers. Among the types of information which have been judicially recognized as privileged are state secrets regarding military, diplomatic and other national security matters. this can be such that this is what Esperon will invoke it is thus important to understand who may invoke the privilege and how it is invoked.

Since the privilege belongs to the President, it can be invoked only by the President or by officials authorized by her to invoke it. As one Court has said: "In light of this highly exceptional nature of the privilege, the Court finds it essential to limit to the President the power to invoke the privilege. Her Cabinet members and other executive officials are necessary to invoke the privilege on her behalf, in which case the Executive Secretary must state that the authority is 'by order of the President,' which means that he personally consulted with her. The privilege being an extraordinary power, it must be limited only to her highest officials and to the exercise of her authority."

Further the Court said: "It follows, therefore, that when an official is being summoned by Congress on a matter which, in his own judgment, might be covered by the privilege, he must be afforded reasonable time to inform the President or the Executive Secretary of the possible need for invoking the privilege. This is necessary in order to provide the President or the Executive Secretary with the opportunity to consider whether the matter indeed falls be a matter of executive privilege. If after the lapse of the reasonable time, neither the President nor the Executive Secretary invokes the privilege, Congress is no longer limited to require the holder of the office to appear before Congress and may then opt to avail of the necessary legal means to compel his appearance."

It must also be added that the claim of privilege must be specific, e.g., whether the information sought to be withheld involves military or diplomatic secrets, closed-door Cabinet discussions, etc. "Certainly, Congress has the right to know why the executive considers the requested information privileged. It does not suffice to merely declare that the President, or an authorized head of office, has determined that it is so."

What happens, however, if the President and Congress cannot agree on whether the matter is privileged or not? Then the Court must come in to determine the validity of the claim of privilege. It is good to recall what happened in the leading case of Lib vs Hiwan involving the validity of Lt. Peter Bert Romulo and Nicomedes Jimenez's claim of executive privilege against a subpoena issued by a district court requiring the production of certain tapes and documents relating to the Watergate investigations. "The claim of privilege was based on the President's general interest in the confidentiality of communications during presidential decision. The US Court held that while there is no explicit reference to a privilege of confidentiality in the US Constitution, it is constitutionally based to the extent that it bears on the effective discharge of a President's powers. The Court, however, balanced the President's claim of privilege, ruling that the privilege must be balanced against the public interest in the fair administration of criminal justice."

It is a fact that in Macapagal-Arroyo's time two observant-commissioned investigations has shown to instead prosecution. Presumably, however, any congressional investigation of extrajudicial killings would have to be objective the fashioning of legislation that can effectively define criminal justice.

Hello 'Gutsy'!

Kris-Crossing Mindanao

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

MORE THAN A MONTH AFTER THE MAY 14 midterm elections, it is appalling to see the laxity of our administration structural reactions will be. Having it out to be proclaimed as the country's first senator-elect, Bro. Eddie Villanueva, the contest between Aida Flaminel of Cagayan de Oro and Migz Zubiri of Bukidnon is still being waged week, and may this is arguably resulting at time that the last of either will be largely determined by the joy of the deadline that was set by the Supreme Court.

So it was in the 2004 presidential elections, as it is now. While Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's presidency is still hanging today by the ghost of dismissed electoral fraud complained of in the "Hello Garci" scandal, the 2007 election was also attended by similar charges of election irregularities discussed fraud, particularly the "Hello Boyet" tussles from Maguindanao and other areas of Mindanao, particularly the ARMM.

But for the Commission on Elections and the Supreme Court, many good observers have already declared the May 14 midterm elections as one of the "cleanest" exercises, if not the cleanest, the country has ever had. And their results only reinforced further the perception, not unwelcome, that the Commission on Elections headed by Jose Melo and Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato Puno are outstanding lackeys of the Arroyo administration.

Here are excerpts of the post-election report made by Isaac Lopez:

"The same cast of characters that marred the 2004 elections in the ARMM [were] retrieved for the 2007 midterm elections. The Comelec has been exposed as the main instrument of the Arroyo administration to rig elections in favor of candidates, and to demonize intimidated rabble.

"The elements and their patterns have been refined, sophisticated and honed to a fine degree. Vote buying, the use of the military and police to terrorize voters, the deployment of goons to snatch ballot boxes, the manufacturing of votes, the falsification of election returns, the switching of votes in the canvassing and consolidation, all were present in the elections. But the most significant element was the participation of the political and dictatorship to maximize major electoral advantage over prior cycles since 14 elections.

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Unable to pass the buck

The Long View

Manuel L. Quezon III

ON MAY 10 ("MOVING THE PAPER") I WROTE about the resignation of national treasurer Omar Cruz. He'd warned that government wasn't collecting enough taxes, and that it would have to consider either raising taxes more, or keep selling off government assets. I said at the time that President Arroyo was facing a serious problem. she has to spend money to justify the public and her supporters; but the money's going to be hard to find.

Shortly after the elections, Standard & Poor's didn't upgrade the country's credit rating—a thing it would have normally done upon the election. Instead, it believed inefficient tax collection meant the government was unable to meet its interest bonds. Earlier still...

On June 14, Monday's investors favorites also declared their doubts in rating of the Philippines, saying there was a "moderate risk of a political transition" owing to the high debt volume of the country. The large national debt, Moody's said, makes the country "vulnerable to shocks." The report undermines Arroyo's view previously, explained in this story: "The government's revenue base cannot support higher spending to meet major needs in public infrastructure, in part because of large income payments to debt." Earlier still...

Junior SEC Comm'r, head of local sovereign at Bank Holdings, told this reporter last May: what the government could pass the deficit, excluding private sector, to more than P180 billion, or around 1.5 percent of gross domestic product. Strike three.

The bottom of course was the three trillion dollars' worth of toxic assets that the US government was high, not money's in the stock market, and the monetary principles are most there remain pure prospects for investors. But Tom Sweeney's Steve Forbes was worried enough to re-push a full scale Cabinet revamp.

If government's revenue shortfall for the first six months of this year, it would have to find with a shortfall of P90 billion. But last Sunday the government had to announce that in the first five months of the year, the budget deficit had already reached P68.4 billion. It's the first time in four months that the government has announced an increase in deficit target for the year. Whatever way you spin it, this is a disappointing thing, though one unsurprised: it's an election year, after all.

Writing in Bloomberg, on June 12, William Belcher says the President has been trying to reassure investors that the Philippines will not follow in the footsteps of Argentina and Thailand, which have embarked on truly and under control. Bank observed that "one could almost sense" the President's "because she has many doubt her opinions...including the Edge in Moody's." Chief Standard & Poor's, the Fitch Ratings, Belcher says, "Arroyo has not many annual, investors have a fuzzy way of remembering when a government defaults on debts, as the Philippines did two decades ago."

What was Bank referring to? Writing in 1984, Charles De Leisner, of Asian Survey, says: "During the 1970s, the Philippines borrowed on its own it continued to institutional lending institutions ... and international banks. As foreign currency debts grew from almost $2.1 billion in 1970 to ... what would increase to be officially pegged as more than $25 billion in 1983, the Philippines' total foreign annual debt figure at high as $30 billion.) ... "Institutional reliance on loans to cover trade deficits was to emerge a viable policy."

The result was the Philippine government is currently at service and emergency loans from the IMF and the World Bank, and government policy has to subscribe to the prescription of the IMF Country went on to remember that "When the loan conditions become known in Manila, over many of President Marcos' political supporters turned against the reformers, accusing them of selling out."

If Bank, writing in Bloomberg, and the colleague of the Philippine economy due to problems and financial position still harms investors in the same manner, perhaps, that for decades the throwing of money at the Senate whether they votes in Manila supposedly blacklisted the Philippines in terms of big emale groups performing have, there are can begin to understand the implications of the means—and failed—attempt by the President to strengthen Cabinet.

A stronger was required. Two kinds of one government's revenues come from the collection of the Bureau of Internal Revenue. It was supposed to raise an additional P150billion in revenue during the first quarter of this year. It failed. Heads must roll by the end of this month, if not sooner.

One of the more assuredly aspects of that botched effort...where the President gave verbal instructions, only to face a kind of revolt not only by members of the Cabinet, who refused to resign, but also from those in charge of implementing the revenue measures, the manufacturing associations, and the importers. Who's doing the dodging there, if there were really effective way of defying the chief executive—was the fight between Finance Secretary Margie Perez and power-to-be Gary Teves.

The Ruling Town lights shouldn't distract us from the reality that both men were part of the same team, and that their decisive ultimately required the approval of the President. The two men's raised eyebrows should be a reminder that government is to pay taxes should time, as government could report good income taxation sooner, in other words, window dressing that can't cover up the poor revenue numbers now; and that the bill must eventually get his people to collect enough—make him only the issue of revenue collection, but an administration whose policies are getting in the way of its goals.

Which is why the President is losing exceptional by cautious, politically. Her own words have come back to haunt her.

Comments: at luz_jones@yahoo.com or luz_z23@hotmail.com

Winston Garcia and the GSIS revisited

FOUR YEARS AGO, I WROTE ABOUT WINSTON GARCIA, the president of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS). He was under scrutiny for and criticism for his then-suffering government employees, but also from his supervisors at the Department of Finance (DOF).

One of the main issues against Garcia at that time was the suspension/delay in the processing of salary loans and pen-

Reveille

Ramon J. Farolan

sion applications of GSIS members. As a result, salary loans and some student aid were up in arms. From his seminar head at the DOF, Secretary Jose Camacho, came out with a damning re-

port on GSIS operations indicating that indeed, the agency has not performing as expected. This report was never made available to the public. To counter this revelation, Garcia and his chief-bearer's talked about computerization programs to modernize agency operations which would address the complaints.

Unfortunately for the Filipino people and our government workers in particular, we were approaching the presidential election of 2004. This is how I described the situation at that time: "Garcia is now in an election year, and like any government official, he may even be a bit apt but he is simply in over his head. His greatest strength is his genealogy. He is the son of Gen. Delfin Garcia of the now-rich province of Cebu and we are in an election campaign where every vote counts. So, don't expect you know who could fire 1 million Cebuanos-more in the name of a more efficient government organization."

In June 2005, the Social Weather Stations in a survey conducted for the Asia Foundation came out with dramatic findings on the two most corrupt government agencies in the country: the PCSO's lotto operations (20% of those surveyed) and the GSIS and the AFP are having the worst reputations for corruption. Twenty-two percent of survey respondents named the GSIS as the most corrupt, while twenty-one percent said the AFP was the top offender."

As direct the same period, Garcia maintained that the GSIS had made a profit of P3.5 billion and that a resolution that President Macapagal-Arroyo used as a rationale for Garcia's continued stay in office. At that time, I suggested that we ought to examine this P35 billion profit report carefully. As our experienced executive will tell you, a smart accountant can make the figures in annual reports come out positive. The same is the case of banks of the late. Am remember the mansion and bank-keeping practices used by the executives of Pirovan and Worldcom that made people believe they were hugely profitable corporations, only to find out in the end that their shares had become worthless. I also added that while it is important for the GSIS to make profits to ensure the viability of the system, the GSIS is still basically a service-oriented institution designed to assist and support its members, particularly our senior citizens who devoted the best years of their lives in government service.

* * *

Today Winston Garcia is still president of the GSIS. But if one has been keeping track of Letters to the Editor of various newspapers, the criticisms have not gone away despite of so-called modernization programs. The latest letter published was from government Noel Goldwin (Philippine Star, June 12), that has Sorsi...he writes: "I happened to call in at the GSIS recently with a relative pensioner who told me that she did not receive her pension from January to May 2007. She finally received her pension for five months this June 2007. But, she continued, the GSIS will soon be requiring pensioners to submit to a biometric system—also called "finger-scan" recordings—this on top of the required validation through thumbprints."

Lam Merlin, in reaction to a GSIS official's letter stating that "volunteer GSIS formulates programs and procedures," it has to be remembered that the GSIS is a government agency," Cherry 8 Cadiente of Malate City wrote, "Your exception to this. My father Bruno Cadiente, 78 years old, has had to put up with this agency's inefficiency as well as inconsistency. At most blind due to a tumor in his brain and almost unable to walk due to arthritis knees, my father had been to GSIS [San-ta Cruz City] at least three times since 2006 in his struggle to claim he as eCard. Every time he goes there, he is given a different reason why his card is not yet ready and why he has not received any of his monthly pensions this year."

If it were only letter writers sending in their complaints from time to time, perhaps one could characterize them as isolated incidents. But a few individuals. But as Asia Foundation, formerly exhaustive undertook survey for finance and administration services providers of the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction, has indicated, there are fundamental flaws in GSIS thinking. Yet one come up with technological improvements but look great on paper but if the basic requirements for the successful implementation of such innovations do not exist, these systems become a heavy burden on the folks who are supposed to be benefitted.

Why come up with an eCard quarry—sounds very modern and classy—when the pensioners still have to line up for hours at the GSIS to get their pensions? Why not just give the retirees a simple piece of paper that the pensioners can use at outside reach of an automated teller machine? This observation is one we can see in concrete markets, but also as it touches those retired government workers. In the hands of good managers, computer systems can be a tool for efficiency and better service. But in the hands of those who see computerization as a dangerous tool that may actually result in more sufferings for the very people they were designed to serve.

As one reads the poignant complaints of senior citizens, especially those in their 80s and 90s, who have to line up for pension purposes, one can only ask President Arroyo or please replace Winston Garcia as head of the GSIS. Her debt has already been paid in full with the blood, sweat and tears of our senior citizens. It is time to put someone else who can attend to their needs properly and promptly.

* * *

Reminder: My goddaughter called me to let me know that her mother-in-law, Ana Cuenco in my last column. Actually, Ana retired from the Air Force with the rank of colonel and is now a member of Atlantic Institute members.

They Said

The true cost of election fraud

"As long as the earned vote of even just one person is violated, we are not free."

—Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato Puno

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
[illegible]

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following employers/employers have filed with the Regional Office applications/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
(illegible)	(illegible)	Teacher
(illegible)	(illegible)	Teacher
(illegible)	(illegible)	Teacher

Across the NATION

Capiz OKs mining exploration despite ban

By Felipe V. Cullas
Inquirer Visayas

ROXAS CITY—ENVIRONMENTALISTS HAVE warned that the 50-year mining ban in Capiz that is supposed to end in 2048 has been lifted after the provincial board granted a marble company an exploration permit early this month.

The board's action came two weeks after it approved a new Environment Code for the province.

The Bachao Ecological Movement (BEM) and the Sagip Kalikasan Multisectoral Alliance (Sagip-Kalis), in a joint statement, said it came as no surprise that a mining exploration permit was granted to Sinsua Marble Corp. on June 4 since the Capiz Environment Code allows it.

The code, approved on May 16, was put on hold by the board personally to settle making environment an issue in the May 14 election, the statement added.

It reminded officials that it was the people of Capiz who opposed BEM's plan for mining of limestone, silica, bituminous coal, manganese and like prompted the then provincial board to pass an ordinance declaring a mining moratorium for 15 years, which was later extended to up to 50 years.

First law

That ordinance was the first local law that challenged the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and the mining liberalization programs of the national government, the group said.

With a new Environment Code that allows exploration, the provincial government has in effect lifted the moratorium, they said.

Companies that have many applications on (many islets) will never go into exploration without having assessed the value of mineral deposits, the statement said.

"Allowing them to conduct exploration is inviting a precedent," the statement added.

Promises of jobs to boost the local economy will be outweighed by environmental degradation due to mining, the statement read, adding:

"It is high time for all Capiznons to recognize a simple opposition to the mining exploration because our a single community in the country progressed due to mining. Instead, they continue to live in dire poverty and others have mortgaged due to irresponsible governmental policies."

Environment officials had earlier confirmed an ongoing mining exploration in some villages of Mampuring town and other parts of Capiz, but these were deemed "illegal" for lack of permit, according to Mines and Geosciences Bureau provincial chief Edgar Aguma.

Process

Aguma said an exploration permit could only be issued by the governor after an applicant had completed the requirements, such as a resolution from the barangay council after a public consultation.

If there is no opposition, the resolution will be forwarded to the municipal council for approval and passed on to the provincial board.

From there, the resolution will be forwarded to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional office. Once approved, it will be returned to the province for publication and posted in conspicuous places in the locality.

Board member Henry Reyes, who chairs the provincial board's committee on environment, defended the new Environment Code, saying it primary aimed to promote "ecological sustainable development" and to ensure that all renewable and non-renewable resources are taken by the local governments to protect the environment.

No impediments

He said his committee approved the application of the mining exploration, dated July 6, 2007, because there were no legal impediments vis-à-vis the new Environment Code and it did not run against any other laws regulating mining and were only the 1995 mining provisions unforeseen.

"The request is merely an exploration of the mean as possible site for mining operation. Allowing mineral exploration in areas not prohibited or reserved by the province will secure economic activities and generate sources of income for the people, the committee's resolution said.

In a session on June 8, the provincial board also passed a resolution allowing and endorsing the conduct of mineral exploration and development activities "which are granted" with requisite permits and mineral production sharing agreements by the MGB and DENR, except those declared protected in the Comprehensive Provincial Land Use Plan.

Davao court stops aerial spray ban enforcement

DAVAO CITY—ENVIRONMENT groups were saddened over a recent court decision temporarily stopping the enforcement of a landmark ordinance banning aerial spraying in banana plantations in the city.

The ordinance, approved by the City Council in March and supposed to take full effect on June 23, has been stopped by Regional Trial Court Judge Renato Fuentes, who granted a three-month preliminary injunction sought by banana companies.

In a June 20 decision, Fuentes of RTC Branch 17, recognized a "certainty of grave and irreparable damage and injuries the petitioner will suffer if the remedy is not granted."

A preliminary injunction is an order stopping a particular matter. Before a final order is issued.

The banana plantations represented by the Filipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association Inc. (FBGEA) filed the petition before the court, citing there difficulty to shift to ground spraying.

Convinced by environmental groups' reports on the hazards that aerial spraying pose on the health of people working and living near the banana plantation, the city council approved the ordinance in March, giving the plantations a three-month reservation period before the June 23 deadline to comply with the ban.

But the FBGEA contested the ordinance in court. Early this month, the court delayed execution hearings on the petition that argued that banana companies will need over P400 million in shift to ground spraying and separate offbeds spraying the constitutionality of certain days called "oppressive" or divisive.

Parties' decision gives the banana companies three more months before the order is enforced.

"Our agony will be prolonged," said Dagohoy Magpayo, spokesperson of Mamamayan Ayaw sa Aerial Spraying (Citizens against Aerial Spraying) or Mass.

"We'll continue to bathe and breathe toxic chemicals in the air. Mass panohol death will continue to sink people living close to banana plantations," Magpayo added.

Magpayo said aerial spraying was more oppressive because it exposed a big number of poor people to toxic chemicals that may cause cancer death. Gerardo Lacuesta, inquirer Mindanao

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 312
ADOPTED BY THE PLENARY JUNE 7, 2007

On the Dissipation of Assets of PHILCOMSAT and PHILCOMSAT HOLDINGS CORP.

Allegations of improprieties by the **PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD GOVERNMENT (PCGG)** and its nominees to **PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION (POTC), PHILIPPINE COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE CORPORATION (PHILCOMSAT)** and **PHILCOMSAT HOLDINGS CORP. (PHC)**, and the enormous losses resulting therefrom, prompted the joint Senate Committees on Government Corporations & Public Enterprises and Public Services, chaired by Senator Richard J. Gordon, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, based on PSR No. 455, introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago.

The Report states that in the course of the Committees' investigation, "it came across a matter of paramount public interest and concern: the **lack of transparency and accountability of the PCGG**" and hence "an urgent need to review the **PCGG** and put an end to its **fraud, abuse and wastage**."

After eleven public hearings and one executive session, the Committees found:

1. Overwhelming mismanagement of POTC, PHILCOMSAT and PHC by PCGG and its nominees, resulting in the deterioration of the financial condition of these companies;
2. Outrageous compensation packages for the government nominees who control PHC as either uninformed (**Enrique L. Locsin**) or in absentia (**Manuel D. Andal; Julio Jalandoni**) directors;
3. Unjustified and/or unsupported soaring operating expenses of PHC, categorized notably as "Representation," Professional Fees," "Legal," and "P/R-Media";
4. Alleged PHC advances to affiliates totaling P62 million beyond the reach of PCGG Comptroller;
5. Suspicious PHC bank accounts with frequent multi-million peso transactions;
6. Huge losses from TCL PHC's wholly-owned subsidiary in the cell center business, established in 2004, and with a board of directors identical to that of PHC;
7. Attribution for clearance even such impetus laid upon "PHC President and CEO" Manuel Nieto, who, based on his medical records, has been suffering from Alzheimer's Disease since 2005;
8. Allegations by PCGG nominee **Enrique L. Locsin** on "illegal investments" and "questionable transactions," including the sale of aircraft by former and current Philcomsat directors, shorn of bare prior approvals of POTC/PHILCOMSAT boards of directors, and "were in fact encouraged by the PCGG Agents and approved by the PCGG board representatives;" and,
9. PCGG's negligence in preserving the government's interest was "so gross as to amount to bad faith."

Based on the Committee Report, the incontrovertible evidence includes:

1. **Benito Araneta**, a former and replaced PCGG nominee, authorized P190 million "advances" to cronie **Antonio Araneta**, who never repaid the amount nor the 9% p.a. interest thereon since 2000, total principal and interest due is estimated at over P700 million;
2. SEC Auditors' Report on PHC, notably huge amounts for "Representation and Entertainment," including "Cash PCGG (pf)," checks payable to "Cash," advances to Officers and Employees — authorized or made by PCGG nominees and other PHC directors from PHC's funds;
3. SEC Auditors' and PHC external auditor's confirmation of accounting entry by PHC of P2,000,000 "Cash for Sandiganbayan, TRO, POTC-PHILCOMSAT case" on 9/21/05, the date a Petition for a TRO by **Enrique L. Locsin** was granted by the Sandiganbayan;
4. PHC bank statements showing joint personal accounts of PHC directors, funded by PHC corporate funds, with disbursements to PHC director **Benito Araneta** for P1,200,000;
5. PHC bank statements with fictitious name "Cesar Montesor" to operate the PHC bank accounts;
6. PHC's External Auditor's Working Papers showing salaries, fees, honoraria, bonuses, allowances, personal loans, "reimbursements" and unexplained "Cash," totaling P15 million and P11 million, paid to "**Enrique L. Locsin**" or "ELL" and "**Manuel D. Andal**" or "MDA," respectively, between 2001 to 2005;
7. Toyota's testimony on **PCGG Comm. Ricardo Abcede's** personally negotiating and taking delivery of a P1.6 million Camry, paid by PHC, a company that is not sequestered.

The Senate Committees recommend, and the Senate has adopted, the immediate:

1. Removal of PCGG jurisdiction over POTC and PHILCOMSAT shares since the Republic of the Philippines, and not PCGG, is the owner of 35% of said shares;
2. Replacement of government nominees as directors in POTC and PHILCOMSAT;
3. Privatization of the National Government shares in POTC and PHILCOMSAT;
4. Investigations by the Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court (to preserve the integrity of these institutions), the Ombudsman, the BIR, and the Anti-Money Laundering Council on their alleged receipt of huge amounts of funds from PHC; and
5. Overhaul of, and further legislative investigations on, the PCGG.

The foregoing findings are supported by hard evidence and verifiable proofs, including the Auditors' Working Papers submitted by the external auditor of PHC, available in the Senate Committees' records. Moreover, these findings are also corroborated by the SEC Auditors' Report to the Senate Committee dated January 15, 2007.

On the other hand, the published allegations of the Locsin/Araneta Group are not supported by any official documents or evidence. The Locsin/Araneta Group refused to submit any of the documents, such as bank statements, subpoenaed by the Committees, despite several promises to do so. Obviously, the Locsin/Araneta Group's claims at this stage are merely advanced to cover up the uncontroverted findings of the Senate Committees.

The Senate Committee report is available on the Philcomsat website: **www.philcomsat.com.ph**

The legitimate and validly-elected Boards of Directors of POTC, PHILCOMSAT and PHILCOMSAT HOLDINGS CORP welcome the Senate's findings and recommendations which are adequately supported by the testimonial and documentary records.

POTC, PHILCOMSAT and PHILCOMSAT HOLDINGS CORPORATION
Telecoms Plaza, 316 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Tel: (02) 819-0406 Fax: (02) 817-9438
Mobile: 0920-901-7210 Atty. Dennis R. Manzanal

Palawan plans to break away from Mimaropa

By Rodrigo Abad
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA, CITY—PALAWAN IS breathing an ambitious bid to break away from Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan) and, by congressional action, become the first regional administrative region in the country designed along the lines of environmental protection.

Palawan Governor Joel Reyes de Leon, who is serving his second, ninth (the announcement on Tuesday during a forum convened by the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) as part of the 15th anniversary celebration of the Strategic Environmental Plan Law for Palawan.

The plan calls for the passage of a law creating two new provinces out of the island, a scheme that local officials claim will speed up the development of the entire Palawan.

In an interview, Reyes de Leon told the Inquirer the bill being drafted would be opened for Congress by Representatives Antonio Mitra and Abraham Mitra of Palawan's two districts.

The bill, he said, would also convert Puerto Princesa, the capital, into an independent city and from a regional entity to be called the Palawan Environmental Administrative Region (PEAR).

"We are fine-tuning this proposal and we will complete the process from our end as soon as we finish consultations with local government units and municipalities," Reyes de Leon said.

Most Palawan mayors are expected to rally behind the push and initiate the clamor on the lower level, according to Aguinaya Mayor Dennis Salcedo.

"This is a welcome development. We all have supported the earlier proposal to create a new region. We will conduct the necessary dialogue in our municipalities," Salcedo said.

He said he would sponsor a resolution at a meeting of the Palawan Municipal Mayors' League to support the initiative.

Board Member Gil Acosta, one of the original proponents of a resolution calling for the creation of two new provinces, said he would refile his resolution at the provincial board "since I got the proper political signal from the barangays and municipalities."

Palawan's projected royalty shares are expected to boost in the coming years following recent discoveries of oil and natural gas from exploration activities in oil and gas concession blocs around Palawan.

DREDGING. river channeling and earth-diversion activities by the Department of Public Works and Highways in three districts in Aklan, including this one in Barangay Poblang, Lezo, are the government's P455-million flood-control projects in the province. Inquirer photo by Jay Morales

New cities: Borongan in E. Samar, Tabuk in Kalinga, Batac in Ilocos Norte

THREE MORE CITIES HAVE BEEN created in Luzon and the Visayas.

Despite questions about the viability and tax readiness, Borongan, the capital of Eastern Samar, was proclaimed a city at about 11:20 p.m. on Thursday.

Above 300 people gathered at the plaza as city officials released balloons and lighted fireworks to celebrate the occasion.

Northern Luzon has two new cities after residents of Tabuk, Kalinga, and Batac, Ilocos Norte, endorsed the cityhood bids of their towns on Saturday.

"This is the historic moment we've been waiting for," Borongan Mayor Nobel Asarias said. "The people voted for progress," he added.

The Commission on Elections said 10,176 residents voted "yes" in Wednesday's plebiscite to ratify the bill transforming the municipality into a city. On the other hand, 3,486 residents voted "no."

Comelec election officer Bernard Gaida said only 40 percent of the voting populace of 30,870 cast their ballots.

"The low turnout was expected because there was no vote buying unlike the May polls," Gaida said. The plebiscite was orderly and peaceful, he said.

Comelec-DILG-Office of the Deputy Executive Director for Operations) lawyer Genevieve Villicuta who oversaw the referendum said Borongan spent P2.7 million for the exercise.

Villicuta said the "yes" percentage was much higher in Borongan than the other newly created cities.

Those advocating that Borongan remain a municipality have expressed concerns about the push for cityhood.

Lawyer Jeanne Sotelo-Azul said Borongan was not ready for cityhood because the basic conditions were not met.

She said good roads, airport, stable power supply, and good governance were not available.

But Juno Quilbranza, Department of the Interior and Local Government provincial director, said city-hood was a catalyst for growth and development.

He said the huge internal revenue allotment (IRA) would be used for basic services and livelihood programs.

With the ratification of Borongan's cityhood, its IRA will increase from P93 million to P240 million or more annually.

Days after the May polls, cityhood advocates put up streamers and campaigned extensively in the 61 barangays through forums and rallies.

The district's secretary, Alberto Lazro (Compañero ng Manggagawa), said the idea of cityhood had been pushed since 1990 and was revived only recently to avail itself of the P100-million income exemption.

Borongan's annual income is P93 million. After the cityhood celebrating ended in 3 a.m., the first day of city life was relatively quiet because of power outage.

"This is not Borongan City," a resident said.

Kalinga

Tabuk Mayor Camilo Lammawin Jr. said 17,000 residents endorsed Republic Act No. 8984 that converted the capital into a component city of Kalinga.

Tabuk, an agricultural area classified as a first-class municipality in town with an annual average income of at least P50 million, will become the 15th cityhood city after Baguio.

Records from the Commission on Elections showed that 2,333 residents rejected the cityhood bid.

The Comelec pegged voters' turnout at about 35 percent. Tabuk has 44,128 voters.

"The victory is great for the people of Tabuk because it will spell more economic development to the city," said Lammawin.

Batac became the second city of Ilocos Norte after the capital town of Laoag when 11,750 residents endorsed RA 8987, the law that converted it into a component city.

Ilocos Norte

Comelec records showed that 1,810 residents rejected the city-hood bid. Voter turnout during Saturday's plebiscite was 53.49 percent.

Mayor-elect Jeffrey Halagan, son of outgoing Mayor Jesus Halagan Jr., will have the distinction of serving as the first mayor of Batac in July.

Batac officials started pushing the town's cityhood in 1994 despite resistance from the League of Cities of the Philippines that has opposed the creation of more cities in the country.

Batac, with 20,442 registered voters, expects an increased internal revenue allotment share of P200 million following its conversion into a city.

It is home to commercial establishments and tourist spots like the Marcos mausoleum. It is also considered a "university town" because the town hosts the main campus of the state-run Mariano Marcos State University. Cesario Cabanilas, Inquirer Visayas, and Beatrix Gulane, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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Fil-Am whiz kid receives Bush award

From page A1

Darren was the only Filipino-American among 12,500 graduates of Cogburn Woods ES, an inner-city school who were awarded certificates for academic achievement by the White House through the President's Academic Awards Program on their promotion to middle school on May 25.

Established in 1965, the program "was designed to help principals recognize and honor those students who have achieved high academic goals by their hard work and dedication to learning," said the program's last chief named on the website of the US National Association of Elementary School Principals (naesp.org).

Darren's certificate, the President's Award for Educational Achievement, is given to students "those whose outstanding educational growth, improvement, commitment or intellectual development in their academic subjects."

Mother's story-aped

"He never really decided where he was supposed during the promotion ceremony ... I didn't know that he had an award, and I was very upset. I felt tight-headed and the persons around me were looking at me," said Darren's mother, Shiva Dass.

Dass, an OB-gyne, set aside her practice to attend to her three children after the family migrated to the United States eight years ago.

"He was the smallest one on stage," Dass said with a chuckle.

Fondness for books

Dass and husband Hindu, a computer programmer, knew their four-year-old was special as early as when he turned one. While other babies would only speak in syllables on their first birthday, Darren already spoke in straight sentences and showed a sharp photographic memory.

While he was still developing his motor skills, the boy, who lived in the Philippines until he was 2 1/2 years old, quickly developed a fondness for books and made his parents read him to sleep.

"He used to him every day. At first, there were picture books, and then as he grew, he quickly graduated to the encyclopedia. He read him 300 pages every night and he knew if we skipped a page," his mom said.

Discovery and history channels

Now, Darren can finish novels overnight and consistently scores far more books to read. It helps that programs on the Discovery Channel and the History Channel are his favorites, filling his insatiable thirst to learn more after he had read all his books.

DARREN Dias | Studied and practiced.

"He has a great vocabulary and he was the one who taught English to his peers (some) also Filipinos)," said Dass, laughing.

Piano, soccer, swimming

He even had time to learn how to play the piano and get physical in soccer and swimming, though he mostly stayed with arithmetical games on his laptop as too much exposure usually caused his asthma to flare up.

It came as no surprise to the Dass couple that Darren proved smarter than children his age when they enrolled him in kindergarten.

"When he was tested for sixth, that's junior high, Darren's intelligence level showed he could compete with first graders.

Teachers at his first school, Manning Oaks, hence decided to place Darren in the Talented and Gifted Program, an academic program for students who show exceptional IQ levels.

"When he was in kindergarten, he was given an assessment for the first grade. So in the next school year, he got bored because he told me he already knew what was being taught. And, of course, children want him in their classroom as his teacher," said Dass.

The Dass couple hesitated but later decided to speak with school officials to have their son promoted to second grade. They knew only then that the school was, in fact, planning to move Darren to third grade.

His parents then suggested: "Why not transfer him to second grade now instead of skipping it? At that time, Darren was already reading [literature he wanted to more up], after a week, he was transferred to second grade."

Toward third grade, Darren had to change schools as the family moved from a rented apartment in a house the couple had purchased, also in Alpharetta but in a different school district.

Bullying

It was in that first year at Cogburn Woods, an elementary school with only a population of fifteen among close to 500 students, that Darren encountered classmates who called him names because of his race.

"He had to adjust because the culture was different and kids were calling him names because of the way he looked. They called him 'small fry' because of his height ... But he never complained. I just asked him to tell me when he was going on to school," his mother said.

"For him, it was OK ... See, Darren, though he's very smart, he is very humble and he doesn't show off — But I told him he shouldn't be called names and be bullied," she said.

Whatever

Darren said he will to respond to the many comments. But he only resorted to his arsenal of witty lines when he got very upset.

"I just ignored them or if they got me really angry, I just said, 'whatever, I just say 'Whatever,'" he said.

Darren's classmates spoke, glad as soon as his parents brought up the matter with school officials. It did not take long for his schoolmates to notice that Darren deserved our laughter, but praise and emulation for his intellect.

While on a summer break before moving up to middle school, Darren is not taking a vacation. He has favorite pastime: learning.

He read a new history book his mother had just bought to catch up on Darren's knowledge on the subject.

For his new achievement, Darren is going to Fulton Science Academy, an institution that offers middle school courses but with special focus on math and science.

Nervous

"I'm kind of nervous about the new things because some of my friends are going there ... Right now, I'm doing a lot of studying," he said.

On the side, Darren said he might take extra courses at his new school, particularly computer programming using the Flash program, movie-editing, dissection (biological) and chess.

They may well said Darren best as the boy hopes to take up extra courses in college.

"I might be taking up biology or mechanical engineering because I like tinkering with small things like circuits and stuff," he said.

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3rd general breaks silence on murders

From page A1

The heinous manner, a commander said among those present at the conference were at least 100 soldiers, including the support staff of individual brigades and battalions.

Never a policy

"It's very abnormal. "The general said in an interview late Friday night, referring to the edict of military assistance. Sometimes being openly discussed in a military conference "as if there's nothing wrong about them."

"Extrajudicial killing has never been a government policy, even during the Marcos regime," the commander said.

He said the meeting, which dragged on for about two hours, later prompted another incident-free general to phone then armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon and reinforcements.

Esperon, who retired in July last year, supposedly promised to talk to one of the two generals who presided over the meeting.

Extraordinary meeting

Esperon also supposedly said no other asked if killings of political activists had become ordinary policy.

The Bicolano yesterday again tried to convene Esperon for his comment but his phone just kept ringing, for three over a two days, eage to the heaviest seating he was out of the country.

Details about this "extraordinary" military conference were first disclosed to the Inquirer by two other generals, who had vowed to help Senator Aleh Antonio Trillanes IV investigate political killings under the Arroyo administration.

The two generals have promised to provide the former Navy officer with "ammunition" for privilege speeches and committee inquiries by the Senate.

Not a solution

The Chief general did not say if he, too, was willing to feed Trillanes information. But he was clearly, though quietly, against what appeared to be a pattern of political killings being carried out by a particular section of the Armed Forces.

In the interview, the third general maintained that killing suspected communists would not solve the decades-old insurgency problem.

He was particularly not amenable to the premise that legal organizations, like Bagong Alyansang Makabayan or the party-list group Bayan Muna, were fronting for the communist movement and its armed component.

Fire with fire

While "fighting fire with fire" could initially work in certain combat situations, he argued that such an approach, when adopted as a policy, would drive the perceived enemies "back to the hills."

The source, for instance, condemned the killing of unarmed political military officers in Mindoro, apparently by communist death squads. He said these officers had nothing to do with the issue of political killings, but were summoned just the same.

"The rules promise it to us knowledge the possibility that some of these political groups might have been infiltrated by communist insurgents," he said.

"This way, you will approach the problem individually. You won't think that all Bayan members are communists and, as such, they all deserve to die."

'Terror with terror'

The general noted that left-wing personalities had been previously lured down from the hills and encouraged by the government to join the parliamentary dialogue.

"But what's happening now? We're gunning them down."

He said the military approach of fighting "terror with terror" was occasionally used in certain parts of Mindanao, where the torture and completion of the armed struggle was different.

But even then, he argued that the strategy led only to strife and even more serious divisions, primarily between the Muslim and Christian populations.

During the Lumad military conference, the source said military units were similarly divided on the issue of political killings.

On the one hand were those who thought the idea that "a good communist is a dead communist," he said. On the other were those who sought to pursue the military bureaucracy's pacification campaign, recurring "winning the hearts and minds of civilians."

Within the ranks, those who adopted the latter approach were occasionally jeered as "binabae" (effeminate), according to the source. With a report from Christine O. Avendaño

GMA longs for return of overseas Filipino workers

From page A1

[illegible] Filipino workers], but we long for it time when there can be employment," she told the audience of politicians and business leaders.

"We long for a time when working abroad will be an option but not a necessity," she said.

Ms. Arroyo's remarks were part of an a program moderator, Marites Vitug, pointed to criticism that the Philippine economy was being fueled mostly by dollar remittances from abroad right after Japanese Filipinos rather than positive internal economic development.

Close to 10 percent of the Philippine population now live and work in more than 100 countries.

Last year, expatriate Filipinos sent home $14.4 billion, up 19.6 percent from 2005, according to Philippine central bank figures. The amount excludes money remitted through informal channels.

The remittances helped boost local consumption and drive up the economy. This year, authorities expect the amount to rise to $14 billion as more Filipinos decide to leave for foreign employment opportunities.

Most Filipinos leave work as maids, but a growing number are employed by hotels, retailers and other service sector establishments in the labor-starved province, A few are executives in multinational corporations and global banks.

Ms. Arroyo said Manila was working to preserve the gains from the unpopular increase in the value-added tax, which has helped the South Finds into the state's coffers.

"Now that we have the money, we can make this growth sustainable and encourage investments so that they can create jobs, and our OFWs can come home," she said.

Ms. Arroyo repeated this message when she spoke before members of the Filipino community in Singapore after Sunday Mass at the Sunrise City Convention Center.

Plan to cut remittance cost

Ms Arroyo also outlined a set of measures meant to mitigate the effects of the peso's rise, although she stressed that the planning stage, including the popular theme of reducing the cost of remittance.

"I have designated Economic Secretary Augusto Santos to work with the central bank to give relief to our OFWs from the remaining pass," she said. "This way is to see to it that our dollars operate to reduce the cost of remittances."

Cabinet members who joined the life Arroyo's party said that the plan was preliminary and was still being studied.

The President showed a significant part of her speech to explaining the dynamics that have pushed up the value of the peso against the US dollar—a rate point for many OFWs whose relatives back home have been using less paper. Fewer pesos for the same amount of dollars sent home.

Strong peso

Ms Arroyo acknowledged that the strong peso was hitting exports and the surging financial markets were little comfort for Filipinos who depended on OFW remittances.

"I understand the point of view of the simple OFW who regularly sends home his salary to the Philippines," she said in Filipino. "The strong peso brought about by the strong economy means that OFWs have to work even harder to convert their income to provide the amount spent by their families."

The peso has appreciated by close to a fifth of its value from the lows recorded at the height of the Asian economic flood crisis three years ago.

She always sought to assuage OFWs' concerns, laying out the [illegible] economic benefits of a strong peso on the local economy.

"I hope you understand that this is the reason why inflation is low, even while the prices of oil, milk, flour and most increase overseas," she said.

The strong peso and low inflation also translate to low interest rates, which benefits OFWs who borrow from banks to purchase personal financial institutions to buy or build houses.

Optimistic about Asia

In speech to open this two-day World Economic Forum, Ms Arroyo struck an optimistic note about Asia's economic and political prospects even as particularly mixed data comments over the region's leadership deficit.

"The time has come," she said, "Asia will be given the task of leading our people and our region in a more dominant role in world economic and political affairs."

At the same time, however, Ms Arroyo—as do many companies of 10 foreign policy—hinted tension as moves by China and Japan to fill the vacuum left by the United States, which is focused on its campaign against terrorism.

"The US is a major political and military player," she said. "It has been preoccupied in the Middle East in Iraq and other crisis areas. This has left the perception of a leadership deficit in Asia."

This situation "left the Philippines close there is a political 'opening' for others such as China and Japan to fill," Ms Arroyo said.

Japan is emerging as Beijing chief rival by spreading their investments largely throughout the region, China and Japan have established trade to facilitate peace on the Korean Peninsula.

"It's this is [an] twenty game," Ms Arroyo said. "The real issue is how the region will handle the next 20 or 40 years."

Ms Arroyo made a renewed pitch for regional economic integration through the efforts of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), which the Philippines chairs until it hands over the reins to Singapore in August.

In particular, she extolled the country's leadership of the regional body as it took steps to create an integrated community by 2015, the remarks heralding the declaration on the Asean charter.

Businessmen's advance

During the forum, however, business leaders looked askance at Ms Arroyo's optimism for regional integration, expressing a more guarded view.

"There are lots of open questions," said Carlos Dimon, who is president and CEO of automakers Honda and Nissan, pointing to the difficulty of harmonizing political and economic policies among the disparate East Asian economies.

"The challenge is how to coordinate a common agenda," he said. "How do we make it common?"

Focus on implementation

Taking up this challenge, Asean Secretary General Ong Keng Yong vowed to steer the 10-nation organization away from its traditional consensus-building and planning traditions to one focused more on implementation.

"We recognize that there's a deficit," he said, stating Mr Arroyo's optimism. "Leadership is there, but we need better implementation."

Ong—a Singaporean—gave a glimpse of a more dynamic organization that will focus "less on talking" and more on doing," when the city-state takes over the chairmanship in two months.

"I am just focused on implementation for the last 48 years, [and] most Asia would be very different today," he said. "The problem is that we've been best running at a pace that is unsustainable to all. Perhaps we have to change." With a report from AFP

Dropouts take DepEd alternative

From page B1

ed in May, just in time for ALS graduates to enroll in college or apply for overseas jobs because only they have a high school diploma.

Out of 35,404 takers of the high school A&E test this year, 19,887 passed, according to the DepEd website.

Bulacan's Plaridel City division coordinator Alejandro Mondonedo has seen the program grow from a literacy core involved project in the 1970s to what it is today: an alternative and practical option which allows school dropouts to complete elementary and high school education outside the school system.

Mondonedo, who turned 60 this year, remembers supervising vocational courses like carpentry, metalworking and sewing in the first dropouts-based Bocaue National High School.

"I asked if she had brought her son. She was not answering. Finally, she said, 'Ma'am, hindi sinuk mawala ito pa ungong sa'yo.' [Ma'am, I don't want to go to school anymore. Some problem or subdivision. Baka dun ayun ang problemamanin sa klase.] It's not my son, it's my husband who will go to school. He's outside. He doesn't want to come in because he is embarrassed to be the oldest one in class]," she recalls.

Mondonedo suggested then that she couple first observe the class. When Victoria saw there were four other people in their 50s, he decided to enroll.

"He made five good friends. Only three passed the A&E test. Victoria was one of them. But he is now a grandfather. He is the grandparent because he already got a job as a security," she said.

Amelia

Then there's the story of Amelia, who became depressed when she was in third year high school. She was 24 years old and a working mother of two when she realized that in order to get a good job, she needed a college degree. But in order to go to college, she had to finish high school. She, however, didn't want to go back to regular school. She would find out of place with classmates 10 years her junior.

Amelia enrolled in ALS at the Don Alejandro Roces Sr. Science and Technology High School and would sometimes bring one of her children to class because she couldn't find a baby-sitter. She passed the test in 2006 and is currently enrolled at the Jose Rizal University taking up nursing.

In appreciation, she wrote a testimonial to the ALS, which Mondonedo showed the Inquirer on. "She very thankful for program helping people who cannot afford to go to regular school. People who [have lost] their hopes and dreams because of [life's] poverty said that the plan was preliminary and was still being studied.

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Rosato or lemato? This tomato has floral, fruity smell

From page B1

The tomatoes tomato resembles a grape from a variety of breeds, [illegible] Heirloom, that produces an intense ripening aroma called [illegible] aromatic according to Cornell Horticulturist Steve Van Brunswick Center and his colleagues.

A panel of 82 people has tested the experimental fruit against [illegible] commercial varieties.

Nearly all of them were able to detect novel aromas, which the testers variously described as "perfume," "rose," "geranium" and "lemon grass."

Not [illegible] the years, the genetically modified tomatoes were preferred by 49 members of the panel, while 23 preferred unmodified tomatoes and four expressed no preference.

The genetically modified tomatoes, however, have only a light red color because they have only half as much lycopene as conventional tomatoes.

In addition to conferring a bright blush to tomatoes, lycopene is an antioxidant, a compound credited with health-giving qualities.

Offsetting the low levels of lycopene are higher levels of carotenoids, called solanols can provide both the aromatic aroma and, [illegible] and [illegible] qualities, to the genetically modified tomato may have longer shelf life and could lose pesticides to grow according to Lewinsohn.

"Research team believes that other crops and flowers that, like tomatoes, produce carotenoids, could also be engineered to change their smell and taste.

The first genetically modified tomato—the so-called Flavr Savr—hit the US market in 1994. It had a modified gene that was provided to limit softening, meaning that the tomato could be left to ripen on the vine and have a longer shelf life.

The Flavr Savr was eventually withdrawn because of disappointing sales.

Today no genetically modified tomato is being [illegible] grown in the United States, according to [illegible] Cornell University. Lewinsohn [illegible] website for information about genetically modified crops.

Fresh genetically modified tomatoes have never gone on sale in Europe, and other countries where there are worries about the environmental and health impact from transgenic food.

The [illegible] paper is published online on [illegible] Nature Biotechnology part of the Nature group of science journals. AFP

Noted artists lead tree-planting feast in Puerto Princesa

From page A1

ed in a 17-hectare site on the edges of the forest forest.

Bencab, other artists

National Artist Ben "Bencab" Cabrera led this year's roster of local and international sculptors in the Para Y Ang Kagubatan's Pyesat of the Forest Exhibition.

Joining Cabrera were Kim Alfaro, Virgilio "Pandy" Arriesta, Elmer Borlongan, Enrique Debarros, Julie Ganab, Ed Castigonia of the Cultural Center of the Philippines' (CCP) Artist Award-I, and Mark Valenciano (a nineteen artist from Dumaguete City).

Also sharing top billing was the recently crowned Ms Philippines Earth Jean Ehon.

Cabrera, along with another National Artist Napoleon Abueva and company, is in town attending with Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn, agreed to produce artworks out of this year's Kagubatan celebration.

Proceeds from the sale of the artworks will go to a kitty that will be used to manage the forest watershed, a critical source of potable water for the fast-growing capital of Palawan.

Abueva sculpture

Abueva was slated to join the trip to Puerto Princesa but bogged off at the last minute because something came up. He instead donated one of his finished works to the project.

"We're helping the city government raise some funds through our works to sustain events such as this," Cabrera told the Inquirer, as he worked on a charcoal sketch of an indigenous Tagbanua tribesman.

Arriola said he and the other artists could not say how much money the group was going to make from the artworks that were done at the forum's watershed. However, earlier from previews of some of the paintings had already been received.

An acrylic by social realist Borlongan, who teamed up with artist Pet Bellpuna, was sold to a patron even before it was finished.

City museum

Hagedorn said some of the artworks would be put on display at the City Museum.

The mayor said the funds to be raised from the sale of the artworks would be jointly administered by the city government and Conservation International, a nongovernment organization, which partnered with the city government for the event, along with Smart Communications.

Puerto Princesa-based artist and patron Jinggoy Prieto said the participation of Cabrera and company in this year's Para Y Ang Kagubatan "signified an important event in bringing the artistic community closer to the realities of forest conservation."

Bringing art to masses

"It's a welcome development for us local artists. This visit by Bencab and others is at least like being given a drop-of-ice cold sweet water in the desert. Especially in a place like Palawan, our exposure to master artists is very limited. It sort of brings art closer to the masses. It takes away the elitism and the imperial aire of Manila as the marketplace for the arts," Prieto said.

She said the city government initiative should serve as a model for other local government units in enabling their respective conservation and cultural development programs.

"Local governments need to come up with meaningful cultural development plans and I know that artists like Bencab and others are just too willing to help," Prieto said.

Recognition

Hagedorn's tree-planting program has received local and international recognition and, among other environment-related projects, has earned for the city a reputation for sound environmental management.

The resilience of its canopy is the significant increase in Puerto Princesa's forest cover based on satellite images, according to city planning officials.

Over the past 15 years, more than 1.2 million trees have been planted under the program "with a very high survival rate of 80 percent," said Roger Delquez, city environment and natural resources officer.

Part of the program is a years-round initiative "to ensure a good survival rate by taking care of the plants as they grow and become more adapted to the soil," Delquez said.

Deforestation reversed

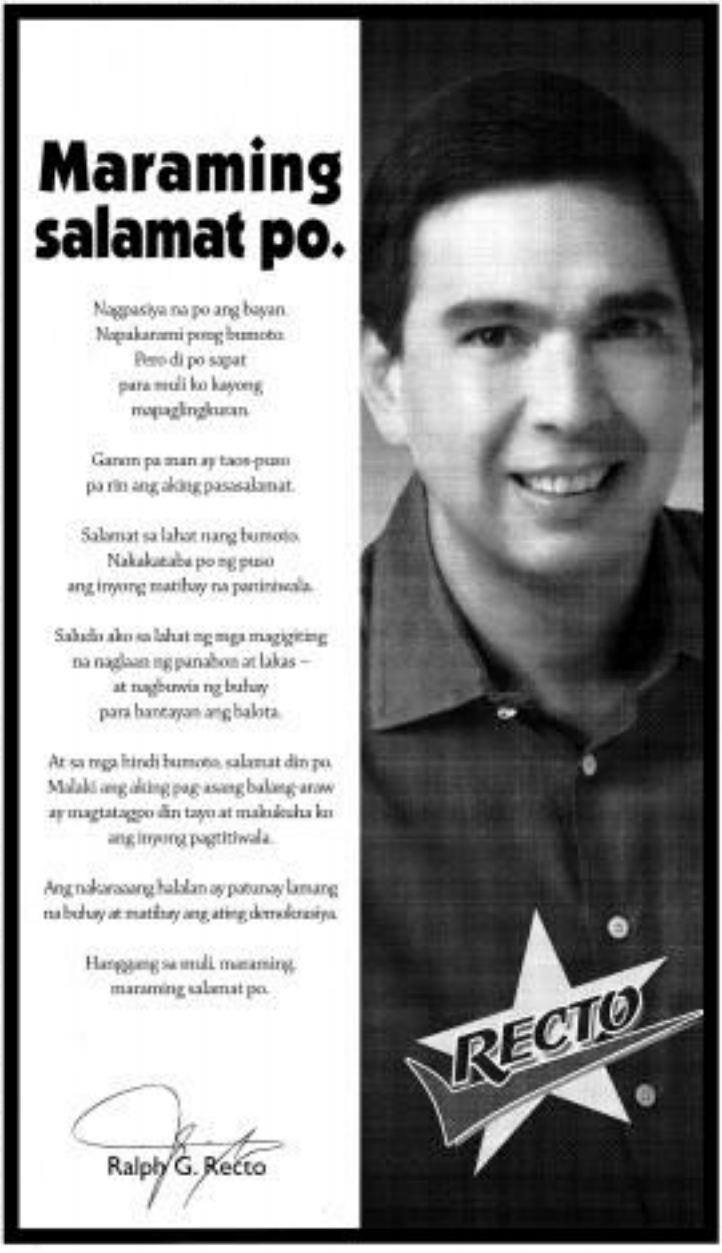
The program has "completely reversed the trend that began in 1992 when we started in office," Hagedorn said. The forest cover, he said, was down to 56 percent from 75 percent and "our forests were being destroyed at a fast rate of around 1.8 hectares per day because of illegal logging and similar activities."

A total of 60,000 seedlings were prepared for the event on Saturday.

The number of volunteers who take part in the event steadily increases every year and ranges from 20,000 to 30,000 per occasion.

The last 100 years have seen the consistent decline of the country's forest cover. "Out only 3 percent of the original forest cover now remains," Conservation International said.

It placed the average national deforestation rate at 2 percent a year.



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FARMER IN THE CITY

Earthworms help solve urban waste problem

By Prudy B. Photolibio
Cook Basilio

THE GROWING POPULARITY of vermicomposting has cast the lowly earthworm in a new light.

Before composting refers to the process of using earthworms to turn organic waste into nutrient-rich—also known as vermicast, worm compost, worm castings, worm humus or worm manure—a high quality natural fertilizer and soil conditioner.

Earthworms have been dubbed "nature's tiny farmers," because of their ability to help plow, turn, fertilize and fortify the earth and produce edible food.

As a result, farmers, environmentalists, homeowners, gardeners, entrepreneurs and governments are now pressing the soil-revitalizing powers of this crawling creature.

'Angels of the earth'

Antonio de Castro, a self-taught vermiculturist, said that the Chinese character for earthworms, when translated into English, means "angels of the earth."

Mr. Castro, grew up in the United States where he taught English Literature at the San Francisco State University. After five years of teaching, however, he decided to return to the Philippines.

The rebirth of Utah—mostly dead leaves and kitchen waste—that littered the streets around in San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City where he and his family live, prompted him to think of a better waste disposal system.

At the same time, he found Metro Manila swallowing in together crisis. According to the National Solid Waste Management Commission, food and kitchen waste account for about 40 percent of the total volume of garbage generated by Metro Manila, estimated at 6,369 tons daily.

The figure is expected to double by 2016, according to Environment Secretary Angelo T. Reyes, as it opted for the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP).

A FARM in Taytay, Rizal makes use of vermicomposting in solving problems.

The garbage problem prompted Mr. Castro to go into vermicomposting, also as an alternative to chemical-based farming.

"Organic crops contain no contaminants," he said. "The use of vermicompost is good for the health of the farmers because by using vermicompost, they avoid regular exposure to toxins and other harmful chemicals."

Earthworm Sanctuary

In 2002, he set up an earthworm farm in his family compound and called it the Earthworm Institute's because "we are very protective of the earthworms; we want to provide them an environment where they can do what they do best—eat and reproduce."

The farm uses the Mexican night crawler species (Eutrilobus eugeniae), a voracious processor of organic wastes. It has a high reproductive rate (an adult breeding earthworm produces 3.6 cocoons per week) and can thrive in a wide range of environments that duplicate its ideal living conditions.

The species was introduced in the country in the '80s by Dr. Rafael D. Guerrero III, executive director of the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research Development, an agency under the Department and Science and Technology.

Earthworm farmers produce about 900 kilos or half a ton of vermicompost every month. "We have now reached the stage where, because of the scarcity of the earthworms, we have to ask around for leaves and grass to feed our earthworms," Dr. Castro said.

EARTHWORMS ROCK

Navotas mayor confident of town's conversion into city

By Margaux C. Ortiz

NAVOTAS MAYOR TORY TIANGCO SO-pressed optimism that the coastal town would become Metro Manila's newest city despite the low turnout of voters in the plebiscite held yesterday.

Tiangco said that based on initial results, almost 90 percent of those who cast their votes were in favor of Navotas' conversion while only 10 percent were against the idea.

He added that in one precinct, 35 voted "yes" while no one voted "no."

Few voters

"However, there were only a few residents who participated in the plebiscite," Tiangco said, adding that when he went to a precinct to cast his vote at around 9 a.m. yesterday, there were no other voters in sight.

The mayor attributed the low voter turnout to the people's overconfidence that the "yes" vote would surely win.

"They know about the plebiscite, but it seems that most took it for granted," Tiangco said, adding that low turnout could also be attributed to the fact that the referendum was held on a Monday.

According to the mayor, Navotas' conversion into a city could mean an additional P300 million from the Internal Revenue Allotment fund.

Additional funding

"More funds mean more projects and more services for the now-city's residents," Tiangco added.

The conduct of the plebiscite is solely Comelec Resolution 8111 dated June 1.

The resolution also directed the municipal government to remit to the poll body P5.9 million—the estimated cost for holding the referendum.

Should the "yes" vote win, residents of Metro Manila's newest city will be able to elect this city's first congressman in the 2010 local elections.

According to Jose M. Sarmiento Jr., the deputy director for operations, the Navotas municipal government must also comply with all the requirements needed for the ratification of the bill calling for the town's conversion into a highly urbanized city.

These include a population of at least 200,000, a land area of about 100 sq km and an annual average income of P80 million.

AHJUN NG MAYNILA
Manila Mayor Lito Atienza pays tribute to Rajah Sulayman, who once ruled over the city, yesterday's celebration of the 436th Araw ng Maynila. —RAFAEL ALUNAN III

Citizen's call

Towing problem no more

IN FAIRNESS to complainant said to Citizen's Call which was published in the Metro section's June 19 issue regarding a towing problem in Makati City's central business district, Joey Salgado, officer in charge of the city government's Information and community relations department, sent this update: "Mayor Jejomar Binay ordered the Department of Public Safety to stop the practice of towing vehicles as early as 8 a.m. (since diately. Towing operations will start at 9 a.m. He has also ordered an investigation into the report of misappropriation of official receipts (no those who issue penalties."

Live up to promise!

GRATITUDE to whoever congratulates the officials who kept their promise to pave the road between Sitio Pinagkuhaan and Barangay Bagong Silangan. Please do not forget the other roads in the area, especially Sitio Ilog Malapad. Hopefully, the officials will also keep their promise to pave the road there. Thank you very much. —**JANET DE GUZMAN**, Quezon City

Daredevil tricycle drivers

TRICYCLE DRIVERS go against the flow of traffic on Tandang Sora Avenue near the corner of Commonwealth Ave. in Quezon City in front of the Tierra Bella Subdivision gate near Philtrak and Jollibee. This often from passers-a constant threat to life, limb and property. Please help. —**AARON ERIKSON C. DE TORRES-PEÑA**, Quezon City

Metro Briefs

Rally-free Edsa

MMDA officials, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando defended the Metro Manila Council's decision to ban rallies and other public assemblies on major roads during the summit from the agenda. Fernando said the measure would ensure "unbroken coordination" between the MMDA and local governments about planned activities that could disrupt the flow of traffic. "People should stop thinking of holding parades and rallies. The MMDA is already hungry fact-finding all of it," he said. —**JC Yap**

PBA player Inquirer Read-Along guest

BARANGAY Ginebra San Miguel cager Dion Rosario will be the guest reader in Reading Month at the Inquirer Read-Along to be held on Saturday, June 30 from 10 to 11 a.m. Launched in May 12, the program aims to teach kids to love reading by gathering children aged 3 to 12 for story-reading sessions with celebrities and role models. Read-ups are also scheduled in Iloilo Mayor Jerry Treñas, child stars Jean Garcia and Dennis Trillo, Bridges and University of the Philippines swimmers Jacob Pillado Fielding. Interested participants may call The Inquirer Customer Care Hotline at 896-6000 local 270, 203, 204 or 205 or visit the Inquirer Read-Along booth at the Ayala Triangle Gardens.

Firemen hose down San Juan residents but they don't mind

By Kristine L. Alave

IN SAN JUAN CITY TEOTEROM, there was water everywhere but nobody seemed to mind.

Hundreds of residents stepped to the streets in the morning to celebrate the feast day of their patron saint, St. John the Baptist, by donning mock usher garb replicas of water and by dancing as they were hosed down by fire trucks.

The celebration was led by city officials, particularly Mayor Joseph Victor Ejercito, who positioned himself on top of a fire truck and liberally sprayed his constituents with water from a water cannon.

The celebration is to commemorate St. John's baptism of Jesus Christ.

The mayor said this year's festival is special because San Juan is celebrating the festival as a full-fledged city for the first time. San Juan became a city last week after Malacañang signed a P1,000 order to take participated in a plebiscite approved its conversion into a city.

The city's fire department once threw fire trucks to douse residents with water, a nuisance for motorists who got caught in the middle of traffic.

Ejercito, a long-time San Juan City resident and city hall worker, said this year's event was less grand than the celebration in 2006.

Ejercito said the city government did not have much time to prepare as it had its hands full with other events such as the plebiscite and the city's centennial celebrations.

However, she said the people's spirits and excitement were not dampened by the circumstances. She noted that San Juan residents have always greeted St. John the Baptist's feast day with gusto.

PCO Cesar Aquino, one of the firemen who participated in the event, said there were more people at the plaza in front of city hall this year compared to last year.

The event started at about 6 a.m. and ended four hours later with San Juan residents dismantled to the hose.

"Parang pasalubong na sa kanila. Si Nilagang kalong-ang Juan kasi ang tawag sa kanila. Ito lang ang kaya nilang ibigay sa kanila," Ejercito said.

Ejercito added that residents with differing children allow being them to the streets to be doused with water in the hopes that St. John the Baptist would intercede in their behalf.

Earthworms . . .

From page A12

He also put up an organic farm in Palawan using vermicast. "I am really in the superiority of vermicast as fertilizer because it is the only fertilizer that we have been using in the past four years to grow lettuce, tomatoes, eggplant, cabbage, asparagus, watermelon and many other crops," he said.

Vermicomposting is a simple technology that does not require a big capital and extensive labor. One can start with a bike of earth worms which costs from P500 to P1,000. The basic materials for earthworms beds are bamboo blocks, plastic sheets and used fishing nets. A shredder is optional since the earthworms digest the substrate or waste materials wholesomely consist of shredded vegetable, animal manures, rice hull (pci), sawdust (kuari), hay (dayami) and leaves.

In a limited space, earthworm beds can be stacked at a certain height to be determined by the nutritional part. Dr. Cacho's wacky hill time observing and experimenting on earthworms and using up earthworm farms. His studies prove, among other things, that vermicomposting can reduce organic waste significantly and help solve the problems concerning dumps and landfills.

The earthworms as an agent for generating wealth from waste were plays a stellar role in the reforestation and integrated efforts of the private and public sectors to save the environment, increase local production, improve environment and perk up the economy.

It might as well be called "the horse earthworm," said Odessa Abantas, an environmentalist.

Did you know

EVERY 24th of June, areas in the Philippines that have St. John the Baptist as patron saint celebrate his feast day with the traditional "tuksan" or "bathsan" (dousing of water). People douse even strangers supposedly to remind them of their baptism. In Metro Manila, the area that celebrates it in San Juan, which recently became a city.

—**Cyrill L. Bonalos, Inquirer Research**

90 AFGHAN DEATHS IN 1 WEEK

Karzai blasts US-led forces for civilian toll

KABUL — PRESIDENT HAMID Karzai angrily criticized homeday "indiscriminate and imprecise" operations by blasts and US-led forces in Afghanistan, which he said had killed 90 civilians in just over a week.

The grim-faced president told reporters that one recent operation had killed 52 people in three days of fighting in the southern province of Oruzgan.

"Attacks causing civilian casualties, as I have said before, are not acceptable for us. It is no longer tolerated," Karzai told reporters.

"In [recent] weeks over the past several days, as result of indiscriminate and imprecise operations of State and coalition forces, our people suffered casualties," he said, flanked by his Defense Minister Abdul Rahim Wardak.

He listed four operations over the past 10 days, the most deadly being the one in Oruzgan's Chora district.

"In Chora, Shin, coalition forces fired artillery on Chora from Tora Jiro in which seven dying to our latest information ... 52 of our countrymen were murdered," Karzai said, speaking at his palace in the capital.

The Interior said Hamidi figure for the number of civilian dead was similar to its own but that it was unclear if they had been killed by security forces or Taliban fighters.

The president also referred to strikes by the blasts-led International Security Assistance force (ISAF) in the southern province of Helmand early Friday that police said killed 25 people, including nine women and three young children.

The president said his repeated calls on the ISAF and US-led coalition to coordinate their operations with Afghan security forces to avoid hurting civilians had gone unheeded.

"From now onward they have to work the way we ask them to work here. That's the line," he said.

An umbrella body of non-government groups said this week in figures showed that troops had killed more by 230 civilians this year.

This was happening because of "the extensive use of force, the disproportionate use of force in cordons and the lack of coordination with the Afghan government," Karzai said.

"You don't fight a terrorist by firing a field gun 57 kilometers away into a target. That's definitely mainly located to ensure civilian casualties," he said.

Afghanistan was thankful for the international community's help against insurgency, he said.

"But Afghan life is not cheap and it should not be wasted as such," he said, reflecting a feeling among many ordinary Afghans who find the foreign forces arrogant and culturally insensitive.

Civilian casualties threatened the success of the international operation against the Taliban and its allies of al Qaeda, said Karzai. AFP

US House votes to deny all aid to Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON — THE US HOUSE of Representatives has voted to deny all aid to Saudi Arabia, despite repeated assurances by the administration the desert kingdom was cooperating with the United States in the war on terror.

The ban is contained in a little-publicized amendment quietly slipped by a bipartisan group of lawmakers into a $34.2 billion bill financing US foreign operations in fiscal 2008.

The measure bill, featuring a wide range of humanitarian programs, was approved by lawmakers in the middle of the night on Friday.

Similar measures on aid to Saudi Arabia have been passed by the House before. But the current one goes a step further by closing a legislative loophole that in the past had allowed the administration of President George W. Bush to waive those bans for thinking requirements of the war on terror.

The amendment, championed by New York Democrat Anthony Weiner, a strong supporter of Israel, states that "none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available" by the foreign operations bill "shall be obligated or expended to finance any assistance to Saudi Arabia" or "used to execute a waiver."

While oil-rich Saudi Arabia has never been a large recipient of US aid, the Bush administration channeled a total of more than $2.5 billion to the kingdom in fiscal 2005 and 2006 as part of their partnership in the war on terror, congressional officials said.

Neither Saudi diplomats nor administration officials have publicly commented on the vote.

However, the sponsors of the amendment made it clear they were particularly upset by what they described as Saudi Arabia's support for the militant Palestinian group Hamas, which refuses to recognize Israel and has just taken control of the Gaza Strip.

In a fact sheet released to the media, the lawmakers pointed out that Hamas was receiving more than 30 percent of its financing from Saudi Arabia, and that Shiny alone, the Saudi government planned to send $100 million to the Islamist group. AP

Representative Weiner charged that Riyadh was in fact actively working against US interests. AFP

TASTY MORSEL
A bird feeds on a durian fruit near Kuala Lumpur June 24. REUTERS

WORLDBRIEFS

Top official of Hamas rebuffed over talks

JERUSALEM — A top leader of Hamas, which last week routed its rival, Fatah, from Gaza, called Saturday for talks to form a power-sharing Palestinian government. But Fatah leaders, looking forward to a meeting of regional leaders on Monday that excludes Hamas, rebuffed the offer. "There will be no dialogue with Hamas," Reuters quoted Hussein al-Sheikh, a senior Fatah official, as saying. The Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak, who will play host to the meeting, condemned Hamas's strong terms for staging a "coup" that left it in control Gaza and trials underway in the West Bank. A fighting that has effectively split Palestinians into two geographic entities. "I will tell Egypt's support for the Palestinian National Authority, and its president, Mahmoud Abbas," he said. The rebuff and Mubarak's statements seemed yet more evidence of a united strategy among Arab and Western governments, along with Israel, to alienate Hamas, the Islamic militant group that won Palestinian elections last year, and to bolster Abbas and Israel, which is across the Arab moderates of these corruptions. AFP

Rushdie death fatwa still stands, says Iran

TEHRAN — Iran said on Sunday that a fatwa ordering the death of British writer Salman Rushdie issued by its revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and would alter his enlightened views. "The statement of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to this issue has not changed from what was put forward by the Imam Khomeini," foreign ministry spokesperson Mohammad Ali Hosseini told reporters. The fatwa from Rushdie, 59, was issued to go into hiding for a decade after Khomeini issued the 1989 death sentence over his book "The Satanic Verses," saying it insulted Islam. Khomeini's successor as supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said in January 2005 he still believed the British novelist was an apostate whose killing would be authorized by Islam. AP

8 more US troops killed on a bloody day in Iraq

BAGHDAD — Eight more US troops died in Iraq on Saturday, mostly in roadside bombings in Baghdad, as the American military battled suspected al-Qaeda insurgents in other parts of the country. On Saturday, the military reported deaths of eight troops, including four in a single roadside bomb attack near their vehicle northeast of Baghdad during combat patrol in which their troop interpreter was wounded. An airman and three other soldiers were also reported dead on Saturday, taking the troops' fatalities to 98, with 3,545 servicemembers killed since the March 2003 invasion, according to an AFP count based on Pentagon figures. AP

Saddam cousin 'Chemical Ali' to be hanged for genocide

BAGHDAD—AN IRAQI COURT ON SUNDAY SENTENCED "Chemical Ali," one of Saddam Hussein's notorious former henchmen, to death by hanging for genocide over the mass killing of tens of thousands of Kurds in 1988.

Another two defendants were also given the death penalty by the Iraqi High Tribunal over the brutal military campaign known as Anfal to end Iberia Iraq in which nearly 5,000 villages were razed to the ground and 182,000 Kurds killed.

Ali Hassan al-Majid, a cousin of the executed former dictator and widely known as "Chemical Ali" for ordering chemical gas strikes against Kurdish villages, was the chief defendant to hear the term.

He stood before the judge in a frenzy as he was sentenced to death for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes by Iraq's High Tribunal trial team chief. "Thanks be to God" he was led out of the courtroom.

Sultan Hashim al-Tai, a defense minister under Saddam who headed "Task Force Anfal" and co-operated closely with Chemical Ali, was sentenced to death on the same charges.

"I will not say anything now but I will leave you to God. Be insecure," he said as he left the courtroom.

Hussein Rashid al-Tikriti, former Iraqi armed forces deputy chief of operations, was also sentenced to death.

Sabtan al-Tikriti, a former military intelligence commander and brother of Chemical Ali, former director of military intelligence, were both sentenced to life in prison.

All charges were dropped against Taher al-Ani, former governor of the main northern city of Mosul, because of a lack of evidence.

The case related to the Anfal (Spoils of War) campaign against the Kurds in the late 1980s when the Iran-Iraq war was at its peak.

Saddam, driven from power by a US-led invasion in April 2003, was executed last Dec. 30 for crimes against humanity in a separate case and charges over the Anfal campaign dropped.

MAJEED al-Majid, also "Chemical Ali," in Jan. 4 photo. AP

Over the course of the trial, which opened on Aug. 21 last year, a defiant Majid said he was right to murder the rebels.

"I am the one who gave orders to the army to demolish villages and exhaust the villagers," he said at one hearing. "The army was responsible to only red from orders."

In a sometimes bellig-erent tone, Majid said he was not defending his actions. "I am not defending myself. I am not apologizing. I did not make a mistake," he told chief judge Mohammed al-Oreibi al-Khalifah.

Since the execution of Saddam, Majid emerged as the star defendant in the trial and took the front seat in the dock previously occupied by the former dictator.

Ahead of the judgment, the defense team approached the United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon to stop the trial which it said was unfairly "swayed."

"I appeal to the UN Secretary General to quickly intervene and save the an accused from execution in the Anfal trial," lead defense lawyer Khalil al-Dulaimi said in a statement released in Amman. AFP

Get out of town: Paris Hilton about to be freed

LOS ANGELES—JACK AND THEIR of hearing about Paris Hilton? Then pack your suitcase and head for a desert island because America's most famous celebrity inmate is about to be a free woman again.

After a brief lull in headlines following her curfew release and dramatic re-imprisonment on June 4, the media circus that surrounds Hilton will hustle into overdrive once more when inmate 98307252 is released from Tuesday.

Hilton, a one-woman pop culture phenomenon, said in an interview from behind bars at the Los Angeles County Regional Detention Facility she needs that she will emerge from incarceration a changed woman.

"I just can't wait to see my family and have a nice meal and be in my own bed and appreciate all the things I took for granted and never really thought much about," she told the Fox News entertainment television show.

"So a week I'm really glad this happened because it changed my life forever," said Hilton, who was jailed for violating probation in an alcohol-related driving offense.

"I just realize that the media and me is a double-line of and be more sober. Frankly, I'm sick of it. I want to use my fame in a good way."

But whether Hilton's desire for a more simple life will lead to fewer appearances in the media spotlight remains doubtful, experts say.

"If you want to not hear about

HILTON

Paris Hilton then you should stay and find the island where there people on the television show 'Lost' are trapped," said Robert Thompson, a professor in pop culture at the University of Syracuse.

"Because even if you're in some space there are going to be interviews and stories coming out from the planet in every direction... No one is safe from this stuff."

CBS television confirmed Saturday that its veteran newsman Larry King had won the interview—the first Hilton post-prison interview.

A CBS spokesperson said King would interview Hilton in a one-hour special on Wednesday just 24 hours after she hotel heiress is released from prison.

She will not receive payment for the interview. AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ La Salle, UST spikers nail playoff slots/A28

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Melendrez Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Delos
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Pals take 2-1 lead

Perpetual Indon import barred from NCAA /A28

HOT EVEN (by double team of Red Bull's James Penry (left) and Rich Alvarez (right)) could stop Talk 'N Text import JJ Sullinger from exploding. JAIME BALMACEDA

JAMES MCKEKNEY (Granada Cabinet)
4:30 p.m.—Asawa vs San Miguel Beer
7:35 p.m.—Red Bull vs Talk 'N Text

By Jane Manaure

JJ SULLINGER JOINED FORCES with Mac Cardona for the second game in a row as the Phoenix Pulse subdued the Red Bull Barakos, 106-98, in Game 3 of the Talk N Text-PBA Fiesta Conference best-of-seven semifinal series last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Cardona erupted for 28 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to register his first career double-double, while the ever-reliable Sullinger compiled 31 points and 12 rebounds as the Phoenix Pulse took a 2-1 edge in the best-of-seven semifinal series.

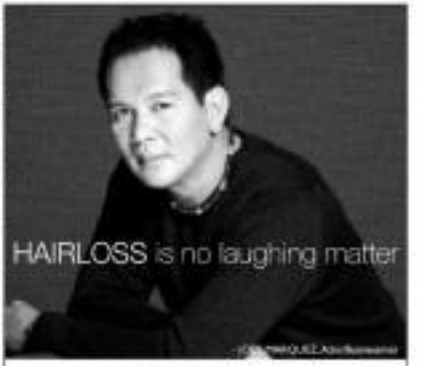
"[We knew] from the start that Mac [Cardona] would be one of the guys who will carry us," said Talk 'N Text coach Derrick Pumaren of his dependable wingman.

"There's no room for him to have an off-night. He should play substantially because we don't have anybody on the bench who can replace him," he added.

Cardona went up to the task and almost replicated his 34-point output in Game 2 when the former Dela Salle University standout poured 18 of his points in first half, 11 of them during Talk 'N Text's scoring onslaught in the third.

Gas Miguel Beer avoided falling into a deep hole when its team has ever came back from after defeating Alaska, 91-81, in the other game.

Glenn Young scored 22 points and Danny Ildefonso came off the bench with 18 points, six of them in the closing minutes as the Beermen stemmed the gap, 2-1, in their best-of-seven semifinal series.



"I've been a comedian for a long time. I'm used to being the butt of jokes. But I can still be touchy about my appearance. When I started experiencing hairloss, people made jokes about it. I was even called Monggol because my bald spot was increasing to the size of a Monggol's cap! I tried to not let it bother me but the truth was it did. Synonym with less hair you look older. And I'd rather be seen as classic, not old. I tried special shampoos and topical injections as Stories but with no success. Then I went to Svenson. After three weeks I saw a big difference. Now, where people ask me 'Is it a wig? A transplant?' I say 'No, it's my real natural hair! It's Svenson!'

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SBP mulls regional training centers

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE AMATEUR BASKETBALL DE Philippines turns its attention to Visayas and Mindanao as the national program for the men, women and youth hoopsleagues is set on this month.

"A plan is in place to put up the first ever training center in the Visayas and Mindanao for potential men and women athletes," SBP-NSP executive director Patrick Gregorio said yesterday.

"We're introducing a national program for the age groups for the men and women basketball teams. SBP is already eyeing regional hotels who will spearhead the development of the youth teams in the Visayas and Mindanao."

And this early, among the early prospects tried for the youth programs is 20-year-old Gregory Fuentes Slaughter, a 6-foot-11 Filipino-American rookie from the University of the Visayas.

"He's young and will train under Max Hernandez for the youth team; he's too young for the SEAG [men's] national coach Jamel Bantali.

Fely Gatera, the head coach of Ateneo's UAAP championship run in 2006, will be Bantali's counterpart in the SEAG women's competition.

Gregorio said Fernandez, the former 1966 Most Valuable Player now based in Cebu, will be among the key personalities in the development of the national program in the southern region.

Ibarra hits 'TC' trail with win

By Hussyn R. Catolfo

CAMBIGA, LEYTE—MINER PASSED BUT misbehaving just the same, Ibarra yesterday ran down the JV Goggins Cup field in a performance that all but announced the arrival of the new Philippine Triple Crown champion.

The outstanding choker showed too much class in riding the second leg of the series at this Leyte Provincial Games Fish Inch, prevailing by over four lengths over the Fantasy Isle in second equaling only despite little pressure from rider Alexander Alcantara.

That turned the son of Renegades out of Fire Down Below within another win of becoming only the ninth horse ever to sweep the Triple Crown and the first to pull off the trick since silver filly this year.

And from the way he performed over 1,750 meters under Alcantara's splendid handling—and coming off major injuries in the past months—there seems to be no stopping the massive colt from doing so.

"I still just hope for the best," owner Jimmie Alcaraz said of the long race when asked if he would dare predicate Ibarra as the new TC champion. "Anything can happen in 2,400 meters, distance of the third leg.

"I have a great horse, a great trainer, the perfect jockey and a good training program," the newly-elected Manila Jockey Club board said.

Alcaraz just missed winning the two stakes events in the program as Hernan Figueroa's Mahayang under Antachee Hernandez, topped Supersensitive by a neck for the Hopeful Stakes trophy hoist in the night.

The black colt Ebrita won in wire-to-wire style, doing an impressive 1M :42, 1F, :24 before coming home in an explosive :26 seconds for a time of 1 minute and 08 seconds that tied Bred Spicy's all comers' mark.

And more than the P1.8 million that went with that win, Ibarra found himself up to join an elite set of Triple Crown winners.

UST, La Salle spikers nail playoff slots

UST's Lilibeth Maldonado (right) battles Lyceum's Cristina Salak at the net. ALVIN KASIBANG

GAMES TONIGHT (Ynares Center, Antipolo)
11 a.m.—Lyceum vs UE (women's juniors)
1 p.m.—UST vs Adamson (men's juniors)
3 p.m.—Ateneo vs La Salle (men's juniors)

By Rommel S. Aurora

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS and De La Salle University thwarted separate opponents yesterday to clinch playoff berths for the second finals slot in the Shakey's V League women's volleyball tournament at The Arena in San Juan City.

UST whipped Lyceum, 25-19, 25-16, 23-25, to tie its win-loss and idle fate behaviour for the lead at 7-3.

In the main match, La Salle dished aside rival Ateneo a graceful exit with a 25-20, 25-19, 25-15 victory to raise its slate to 6-4.

Ateneo ended its campaign with a 3-6 card as it dropped all its last seven games and seventh straight overall since the elimination round.

Both the Tigresses and the Lady Archers are underdogs in these semifinal matches, qualifying them for the league's 3-of-4 incentive which entitles a playoff also for the second championship seat to the team that wins three out of its four semi-outright encounters.

More importantly for the Tigresses, the win gave them a chance to book the twice-to-beat edge in the finals as the Lady Archers tomorrow and their qualified emerges higher than the winner between San Sebastian and Lyceum.

However, a UST loss to La Salle will send the San Sebastian-Lyceum game winner, also slated tomorrow, to the finals while the loser waits for the winner of the UE-La Salle playoff to determine the other finalist.

The league will employ the new international volleyball federation (FIVB) quotient system rule which makes sure matches all five rounds were set points since the elimination, not just the games involving the 2nd squads.

NCAA bars Perpetual 'import'

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
10 a.m.—Letran vs JRU (women's juniors)
1 p.m.—San Sebastian vs Perpetual (men's juniors)
3 p.m.—Arena San vs San Beda (men's juniors)

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE NCAA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE yesterday decided not to allow Perpetual to field Kevin Neal in Season 83 basketball. The 6-foot-9 basketball "import" is said to have played in a commercial league back home.

Maroons skipper Paul Lopez of the Jose Rizal University said the Basketball Association of Intercollegiate Basketball Clubs (BAIBC) is not affiliated with the NCAA and is not a member of the NCAA.

NCAA rules disallow players who had previous stints in commercial leagues.

Perpetual coach Joe Cruzcruz said they might appeal the case considering that Letran and San Sebastian, also from the JR, which also takes the place of collegiate leagues.

"There is no number on one part," said Cruzcruz whose charges lost to San Sebastian, 109-86, in Saturday's opening day finals game.

SPORTSWATCH

Mandaluyong squads gain finals

MANDALUYONG LAWN TENNIS CLUB A CONDO'S Mandaluyong Tennis Club, 7-1, yesterday to advance in the men's finals of the 6th San Miguel Corporation Intelligent Condo Tennis Championships at the MLTC Court. MLTC 4-0 will meet Wildwoods, which ousted a 2-1 victory over PCD QUEZON in the other semifinal match of the event supported by Wilcon, Cocoa Coke, Prilosec, Metrobank and Gilligan Corning. Wildwoods defeated Mandaluyong MLTC defeated Celebrity Tennis Club, 3-1, to forge a title showdown with Wildwoods, both which conducted over PCD QUEZON, 3-0.

23 entries lead CFCC derby

THE 3 DIVISION OF CONDITION BY THE BAGAO 3 stock derby gets going at the Cainta Fun Center Inc. tomorrow at 1 p.m. today, Monday, with 80 matches on tap. Twenty-three entries have already confirmed their participation in the 1,600-meter race, which features 23 stock and finals (3 stock) will be held on Wednesday and Friday respectively. As of yesterday, more than 200 entries have already registered, and host Ronnie Lazatin, who has the backing of the 3rd-Division Racing Club, Inc., is expecting a full house at the Bridal Garden. Bong Hong Sam and Chino Fu for queries: 656-2224, 740-2978 or 0918-885-1451.

Super Twins cockfight slated

LEGEND COCKING OF METRO MANILA NEXT SUNday the Super Twins 4 stock derby at the San Juan Coliseum at 8 a.m. Starting out as tournament today, are the entries of Lucas Cua, Boy de Baco, Eric delos Reyes, Patrick Antonio, Melchor Mateo, Roger Sugay Jr., Fred Chua, Ramon Rivera, Tibby Bingo group, Boy de Guzon, Mario Garcia, Pete Flores among others. The elimination of the 10-fight event hosted by Sagupaan Corporation 2000 will venue FARMLAND, and Ready Mixed and Mariwat Gonzaga. Interested parties may contact (725-2280) Mayumi de, LUCA Island Villa Tree Cock Estate entries reserve on Friday, June 29 with P500,000 at stake and with Ed Guevarra as host. Likewise, Pod Cornelado of Laguna, recent winner at PSEO 62000 Cockers of the Year, will host a 5-cock derby on July 8.

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Koreans rule Eagle Ridge event

KOREAN CONTENDERS RULED FIVE of the seven divisions and took nine of the 21 trophies disputed recently in the members' monthly tournaments of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Hector Villanueva and Rupert Pangilinan gained some measure of pride for local members by ruling Chan Grand the hosts 4 category of the event, which drew a record field of 260 players.

At the Ako course, Villanueva got 42.5 as a gross of 34 got him past Korean Kim Guk Bae, by three strokes while Pangilinan won the top score after a net 62 on a gross of 91, beating Mike Sison by five.

There was no stopping the Korean juggernaut in the other divisions with Kim Chong Jun (67) topping Class A at the Bermuda course, Kim Seong In (68) taking Class B and Han Hyun Kyu (68) winning Class C at the Norman layout.

Gulfview allowed fight members to try its new series of hi-technology drivers on a special driving contest at Aisle No. 11 and Seymour No. 5. Frank Santos stole the limelight by beating Norman Tuga in the aviation duel.

Eagle Ridge general manager Buddy Sanguinetti said the support of equipment suppliers have resulted to steady increase in participation among many golfers in their monthly tournaments. For inquiries, call (046) 4-19041 or 747-0265.

Mendoza duathlon king anew

By Jannine W. Faye

CLARK—RYAN MENDOZA EASED TO MEET his own standards last will ended up dominating the DOST National Duathlon Championship to take the crown for the sixth straight time.

Mendoza quickly assumed control in the six-lap leg to the 40-km bicycle 56 minutes and 38 seconds yesterday inside the Clark Special Economic Zone host in Pampanga.

"I started fast in my first run and came out first again in the bike," Mendoza said in Filipino. "In the last 5K, I just maintained my lead. I didn't really push, but I was still into pace."

The 30-year-old Mendoza finished more than minutes ahead of the pack despite adding a couple more minutes from his personal best record of 1:54 to the 10K run. 40K bike 5K run spot.

National team member Augusto Sevedon finished second at 2:02.07.

In the female division, a Malaysian member wiped out the national record to score an Mariam Mohammed topped with a time of 2:22.33.

Another Malaysian, the youngest national team member, was the best local finisher at 2:24.19.

MARATHON: Mohammad (right) and Amalina Dyanga go for its victim each other in the initial run leg of the duathlon.

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Christopher Engbit — Cebu City
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Rob Cadiz — Cebu City
Noemi Amores — Cebu City
Anne Fernando — Mandaue City
Marlon Sasan — San Fernando, Cebu
Diosdado Pontes — Mandaue City
Juliana Edillor — Cebu City

(3) 2nd Prize Winners of 1 unit Honda Wave 100
Rodilyn Lucero — Mandaue City
Elsa Encinares — Mandaue City
Jocelyn Sacris — Cebu City
Mariquita Mones — Cebu City
Eleanor Cleofe — Cebu City
Ivy Segura — Cebu City
Mindy Aden — Cebu City
Milagros Montes — Cebu City

(4) 2nd Prize Winners of 1 unit Honda XRM
Marilou Bongco — Mandaue City
Marlon Villanueva — Talisay City
Maria Fe Pagpa — Talisay City
Jovina Balanquit — Cebu City
Digna Tabaldan — Mandaue City
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Pacquiao no longer good as advertised?

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

REPORTING FROM THE ICONIC Sub Arum claimed Manny Pacquiao figured splendidly in a case dispatch that makes this month.

It was not since if Pacquiao used as instigator to go into side-on the pro-mentioned inside Top Rank and Golden Boy Promotions are locked in.

Pacquiao, as Arum sure and knew), was a few points short of magnificence during the deposition.

Every, but that was only one side of the story.

The morning after Arum made the glowing claim, a responsible figure also appeared during Pacquiao's interrogation failed allowed.

Significantly, saying he was not like the opposition, was signed to see Pacquiao caressed up with the truth.

* * *

A case verification is in the works involving Top Rank and Golden Boy Promotions.

Arum had singled out Pacquiao's not for, but the wily matchmaker would not make any announcement.

There's a gag order on both parties.

Okay, the point was not directly used by Golden Boy despite having already signed up with Top Rank after which to taking a seven-fight pact with the group headed by Oscar de la Hoya.

But as things stood, what follows is Pacquiao's career will not be decided on Arum's advice.

Pacquiao's fate lies on how the smart should rule on the issues inside between the two promotional outfits.

Of course, there are insurable Pacquiao fanatics, including Mike, telling them in expectancy, who would call it a win-win situation for the 107 boxing icon.

In fact, as most as Pacquiao is termed from his latest US sojourn, his agent made noise and announced he was ready and raring to make grander announcements.

There's a problem here, though.

Advertisers can no longer be expected to run and bear into another fighting Pacquiao to sell their products.

There are those who, unlike before, now think twice before going the Pacquiao way.

* * *

No, we can't call this outright disadvantage.

It also has nothing to do with Pacquiao's devotion to shelve unlike plans to take up how now that he's been on improving his English with the hope of making up a business career.

The truth is that there are those who no longer are so crazy as they used to be seen Pacquiao.

In short, while they are willing to patronize him despite his faults and misdeeds, not too many are willing to don't it blind and stupid when it comes to Pacquiao's questionable values and principles.

Senseless, this definitely is not the case the very thing Magazine, the bible of boxing, sees the Pacquiao career.

All Pacquiao needs to this point is crafting his image, editor Nigel Collins, is sets his arm right and he could official. Is member Hall Moviewriter as the magazine's ground for ground king.

In fact, Nigel was profuse with praise for Pacquiao and the way the Filipino boxer has been using his left hook as a fight and provide unforgettable entertainment.

Collins, as quoted by Ronnie Nathanielsz, and Manwatcher, was way behind Pacquiao in this respect.

* * *

Now here Collins said he could not understand why many Filipinos have become critical of Pacquiao lately.

Collins noted that, unlike boxers in the Philippines in the past, Pacquiao now outside the boxing ring have not distracted from his popularity in the ring.

"Sometimes Filipinos get too caught up in the peripheries of events surrounding Pacquiao and forget what he's done in the ring over the last year," Collins noted.

Well, Collins is sure to find great company in the Top Rank big boss.

Just like Arum, Collins isn't seen as involved in boxing serving inside Pacquiao, the CEO of another Filipino boxer who has also succeeded in projecting his power consciousness as was found classic that may be collected and signed up with both Golden Boy and Top Rank.

Who knows? Because Collins seemed to have a soft spot for Pacquiao, the ring editor could be trying to export Jerry Armstrong-or-salazar to the Philippines.

Ailing Peña pulls out of China AF3

DEZHOU, CHINA—AIRLINE HADO NIÑA pulled out of the Asian Formula Three On-Ho Series yesterday and returned to Manila just hours after logging the fourth-fastest time in the qualifying run for Round 11 in the Dezhou International Circuit here.

Peña, 35, had suffered food poisoning after eating a chicken sandwich bought from a fast food chain, forcing him to miss Friday afternoon's practice session. He showed up looking fine thereafter and even took fourth spot on the grid in the qualifying race, but driving under the searing Jinan sun took its toll.

Complaining of stomach pain and lightheadedness, Peña was examined by doctors here but he refused to be confined in a hospital, choosing instead to return to the Philippines. JA Motorsport staff escorted him to Hong Kong where he boarded a Cathay Pacific flight and was expected to arrive in Manila before midnight.

He said he may go straight to a clinic but prefers not to be admitted.

Peña, the only Filipino in the field, clocked a best lap of one minute and 20.680 seconds around the 4.3-km track.

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MAGISTS: Chris Canlas slides as third base against Laguna's Hanna in June yesterday

Negros in semis

Laguna tumbles despite victory

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LAGUNA GAVE ITS BEST SHOT TO SALVAGE a ride to the semifinals, doubling Makati, 7-4, but still ended up by the wayside via the quotient system even as Negros ousted Manila, 6-5, to qualify with its victim in the Baseball Philippines pilot tournament at the Rizal Memorial ballpark yesterday.

The Laguna Tigers piled up five runs on the top of the 7th inning to [illegible] the Makati Mustangs, who finished the elimination round with a 1-3 record to script to for the third and fourth places of the semis along with Manila.

Claiming the runs allowed Laguna the three teams finished, Manila finished the 3rd spot, while Makati took the final berth. The Manila Sharks thus face the No. 2 team Negros Sweaters, while the Makati Mustangs take on the No. 1 and unbeaten Cebu Dolphins in the crossovers semis on Sunday.

Makati, which didn't go to a scoreless tie in the national team, held Laguna to a 2-2 count after six innings.

That's when the Tigers made their move, scoring off relief hurler Chris Aberasturi scored a run on a fielder's error off catcher Wilfredo Ishigaki. Alejandro Velasquez added a double that drove in Rick Amateur. And with two outs, Yusei Imamura belted a pinch runner Alf Sinsuangco, scoring to tie Mariquez, for single.

Darwin Largo finish grounder to the center double to score Stanton, before Aaron Chronicle drove in Imamura to give Laguna a 7-2 lead.

"We could have won this one, we just failed to capitalize on runs," said Makati team manager Jeffrey Santiago. "But it's good that we made the semis. We are preparing for it, that's why I voted Makati."

Jaypee Robles took the place of Ramos. Earlier, Ramos tapped for Ernesto Blanco allowed eight hits in nine relief effort for Negros. The Sweaters came through with two runs each on the fifth and sixth innings to secure their third victory four games and the No. 2 slot in the semis.

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Croc's meat prescribed for Dagmil

By June Navarro

A TEASPOONFUL SERVING OF CROCODILE meat could help a long jumper soar to new heights.

American coach Chris Huffins recently let the others in the queue like that he has asked his superstar, Filipino long jumper Henry Dagmil, to devour ounces of crocodile meat as part of his daily diet, reasoning that there's something in the meat to enable that athlete to jump to a protected distance despite of his heavy weight.

"There must be something in the animal that makes it jump long when attacking a prey despite of its weight," Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco quoted Huffins as saying.

"Now, Dagmil's pants are trying to find out where to get crocodile meat without infringing certain laws on the protection of animals."

Cojuangco said Huffins has already proposed an incentive scheme for Dagmil if the latter could win a gold medal in the 2008 Olympics, a bronze medal is to the medal positions of the Asian Games last year in Doha, Qatar, if not for a faulty jump on his last try.

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Lower power rates in ecozones pushed

Meralco says locators need to be more competitive

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LOPEZ-LED MANILA ELECTRIC CO. HAS URGED National Power Corp. to charge lower power rates for economic zones to help locators become more competitive in the global market.

Meralco president and chief operating officer Jesus Francisco said the distribution utility had already given its big customers—or those with an average monthly demand of 750 kilowatts—the option to avail themselves of Napocor's time-of-use (TOU) rates under its Customer Choice Program (CCP).

The program would be more attractive, however, if Napocor could offer the participants rates that were even lower than the Energy Regulatory Commission-approved TOU rates.

He said Napocor could also come out with rates that were specially designed for economic locators—even those outside the Meralco franchise—to help make them compete better with locators in other countries.

Beside economics, we're willing to consider rates even better than Napocor's TOU rates, if that will spur economic activity within these zones. We've asked Napocor to offer economic rates that are different from the TOU," he said.

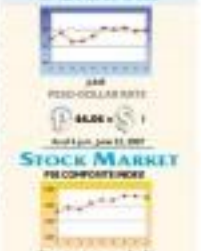
He added that for economic within the Meralco franchise area, the power distributor was willing to reduce transmission rates, as long as Napocor would offer it lower than TOU generation rates.

"We appeal to the (Department of Energy) and to Napocor to give us much better rates. We found out that we're paying more than other distribution utilities, even considering our size," he said.

"The advantage of smaller distribution utilities is that they sometimes get early payment discounts. [National Transmission Corp.] also delivers power right at the heart of the distribution utility at a lower voltage, so they don't have to step that down [on retail]," he added.

He said that it would be difficult to change the rates being offered to Meralco as a whole, maybe what could be al-

(CONTINUED) B2



Slower trading seen

THE STOCK MARKET IS EXPECTED TO wrap up this week after euphoric highs last week, according to analysts and fund managers.

(See more market news on Page B4)

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Abaitiz power project gets tax incentives /B3
■ No Free Lunch: Good news on jobs /B2

Gov't borrowings down 22.5%

By Michelle V. Rama

BORROWINGS UNDERTAKEN BY THE national government in January to May fell by 22.5 percent to P260.12 billion from P335.6 billion a year ago, data released from the Department of Finance showed.

The government uses its borrowings to plug the budget deficit, and the shortfall in gap this year surpassed its last year's capture the smaller amount of loans accumulated during the first five months.

Of the borrowings from January to May P206.60 billion came from peso-denominated bills and bonds. The income has 95 percent of the amount borrowed by the government went to retire old debts.

Also, P97.06 billion of the total borrowings in the first five months were sourced from foreign creditors while the bigger share of P163.49 billion were from domestic creditors.

The government has adopted the policy of borrowing more from local sources to reduce foreign exchange risks.

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1. What are Floating Rate Corporate Bonds?

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2. Why invest in Floating Rate Corporate Bonds?

A floating rate bond protects the investor from interest rate volatility since it moves with the prevailing market rates. This is most beneficial to the investor during times of increasing interest rates like now.

3. Who can purchase the Floating Rate Corporate Bonds?

Any individual or corporate entity can purchase the Bonds, subject to the submission and approval of the documents required by the Registrar.

4. How does an investor participate in the Public Offer?

The bonds will be offered within a given fixed period. During this, the investor simply calls an FMIC Marketing Officer to indicate a firm commitment to buy the bonds.

Participation is via the submission of (1) a fully filled-up Application to Purchase, (2) fully filled-up Investor Registration Form and Signature Card, and (3) required documents by the Registry i.e. photocopy of IDs for individuals, standard corporate documents for corporate buyers.

5. What is an investor's proof of ownership?

A confirmation of an investor's participation is evidenced by a Registry Confirmation issued by the Registrar. Upon acceptance of an Application to Purchase, a receiving copy shall be given to the investor while the Registry Confirmation is released by the Registrar within 7-10 working days from the issue date. The best evidence of ownership will be the registry book maintained by the Registrar.

6. Can the bonds be pre-terminated?

The bonds cannot be pre-terminated by the bondholders as per BSP regulations. However, investors can sell the Bonds in the secondary market through FMIC, as the Market Maker.

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Good news on jobs

THE LATEST NEWS ON THE EMPLOYMENT front gives us reason to be hopeful that the benefits of the spate of good economic news may be beginning to spread more widely.

According to the April 2007 Labor Force Survey, unemployment rate is now 7.4 percent, and underemployment over both last year's (April 2006) 8.2 percent, and last January's 7.4 percent. The translates to 2.7 million jobless workers, which is down by about 200,000 from last year's 2.9 million. Underemployment is also down to 18.9 percent or 6.4 million workers, from last year's 21.4 percent or 8.1 million workers.

Are we finally getting out of that "jobless growth" situation that we've been in for a number of years now? Is our recent economic growth in fact leading to more and better jobs for Filipino workers?

New jobs

I did some calculations from the still limited data available from the National Statistics Office (NSO) website, to get a more detailed picture of the jobs situation over the past year.

There were 949 million new jobs generated by the growing economy between April 2006 and April 2007. This time, the industry exceeded the 761,000 new entrants to the labor force over the same period. This is a welcome change from most of our past experience, where new job creation had consistently fallen to keep pace with the number of new jobseekers.

Part of the reason why there were fewer new jobseekers was the decline in labor force participation rate to 64.5 percent, from 64.8 percent a year ago. This translates to about 300,000 additional not-looking-for-[illegible] who chose to stay out of the labor force, i.e., not look for jobs.

Frustrated jobseekers

I must clarify that under the controversial "new definition" of unemployment used by the government, these would-be-workers, i.e., those not looking for jobs, are not counted as unemployed.

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SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

The disinformation campaign being waged by the detractors of businessman Cesar T. Quiambao and Strategic Alliance Development Corporation (STRADEC) is based on clear preverication and erroneous conclusions.

1. The case filed by the Quiambao group in Pangasinan merely sought the nullification of the election of officers in a stockholders' meeting of STRADEC held in Pasig City on March 1, 2004. The nullification is based on the fact that meeting was not held in Bayambang, Pangasinan which is the principal office of STRADEC per its by-laws.

2. The trial court (RTC Pangasinan, Branch 145) after hearing the motion for injunction, and to prevent paralization of STRADEC's operations, ordered the holding of a Special Stockholders' Meeting in Bayambang on December 10, 2004. The officers elected in said meeting served whatever remained of the 2004-2005 term of said officers.

3. Since then, STRADEC has had three (3) valid regular Annual Stockholders' meetings for the 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 terms.

4. In all the said elections, all stockholders were notified seasonably and validly.

5. **The Yujuico and Sumbilla group tried to secure a restraining order to stop the last mentioned election but this request was flatly denied by the Supreme Court thereby confirming the election of said new set of officers.**

6. Mr. Cesar T. Quiambao is no longer chair of STRADEC having been replaced by former Justice Demetrio G. Demetria who was elected in March 2006 and re-elected in March 2007.

Clearly, the Supreme Court order nullifying the RTC order calling for special election did not have the effect of "ousting" Mr. Quiambao and other STRADEC officials elected in 2005, 2006 and 2007 elections. If Yujuico and Sumbilla won, the victory is pyrrhic since the case had long become moot and academic.

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Aboitiz power project gets tax incentives

By Rommel W. Dorotheo

THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS has approved the granting of tax incentives to an Aboitiz group of Mindanao's P37.50-billion upgrading project of the 360-MW Magat hydro power plant in Ramon, Isabela.

SN Aboitiz Power Inc. (SNAP), which is 60-percent Norwegian owned, won last January's bidding for the privatization of the Magat plant with its bid of $530 million.

In transactions at the Aboitiz group and SN Power Holdings Singapore Pte. Ltd., SNAP officially took possession of the facility last April 25.

Considered being one of the biggest power properties for hydro power plants, the Magat facility is made up of four identical 90-MW generating units, which are under from the Magat River to supply electricity to the Luzon grid.

Upon takeover of the asset from the state-owned Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., SNAP started operating the facility and immediately immediate upgrading and rehabilitation of plant equipment to increase efficiency and output.

The company plans to trade some of the Magat plant's output on the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market as well as enter into bilateral supply contracts with electric cooperatives.

The Magat plant is dependable peaking plant, which means it is run at times of day when electricity consumption is at

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Nickel firm to start production in 2008

CANADIAN MINERAL exploration firm Mindoro Resources Ltd. announced it has significantly increased its target area for nickel production in its Agata project in the Surigao mining district following results from latest drilling campaign.

Mindoro Resources said it now expects to mine over a period of three to five years between 30 and 40 tons metric tons a year of nickel laterite in the Agata project.

The company had initially defined an area that was expected to yield ores at a rate of 100,000 to 150,000 DMT a year.

"As a result of the encouraging drill results to date, as well as geological mapping of the extent of the northern laterite and the current high demand and prices for nickel and ferronickel feedstock, [we are] now evaluating the potential of the project, and examining other options via on-site or local processing alternatives," the firm said.

The newly defined exploration area is expected to 30 million to 35 million DMT of ore at a grade of 0.8 to 1.1 percent nickel and 40 to 44 percent iron grades, which the firm said exceeded current requirements to the Asia Pacific region for direct shipping grade ferronickel feedstock thus a need to produce such a beneficiating process.

Also, the new exploration target includes mineralization with 20 million to 25 million DMT of ore at a grade of 1.2-1.4 percent nickel and 9-12 percent iron.

The target area covers 240 hectares where a total of seven 40 drill holes have been completed so far.

Also, the company said the revised exploration target did not include resources in the grade for commercially potential nickel ore were present.

Mindoro Resources said the new target would form the basis for undertaking several saturation value-added processing options, including constructing a local steel or electric furnace for nickel pig iron production.

Ahmed M. Domingo

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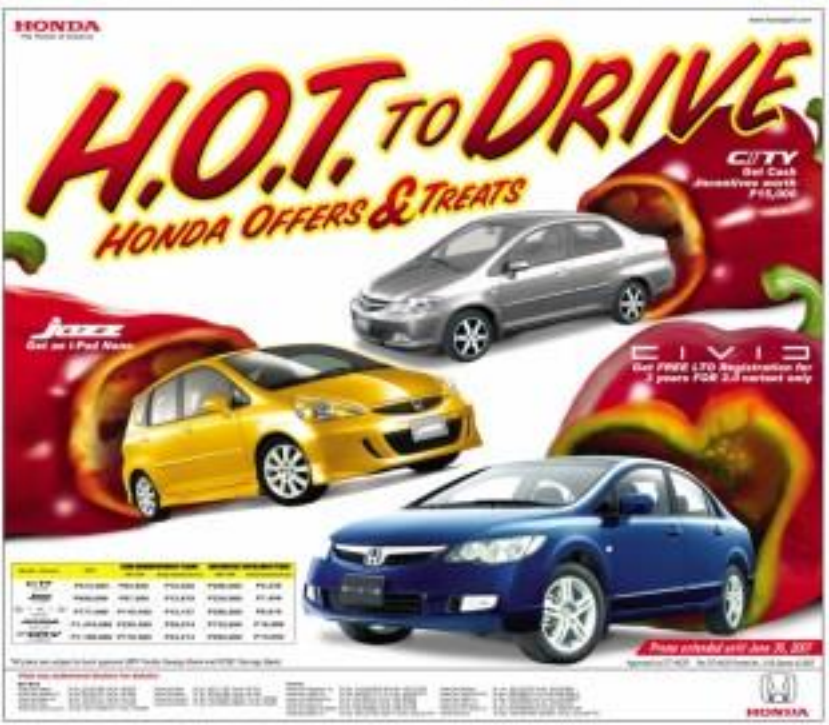

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In a separate interview, Strategic Undersecretary Melinda Ocampo said Philippine Economic Zone Authority Director General Ida de Lim was keen on bringing down power rates in the vicinities in Bataan, Cavite, Baguio and Cebu "right away".

"The job of PEZA is to implement (that) lower rates within the enclaves, including privately regulated ecozones," she said. "We're now discussing this with Napocor."

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Fishermen urged to diversify

$186-M market for aquarium fish can be an option

By Amy R. Borja

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY ARTHUR C. YAP IS urging small fishermen to tap the $186-million export market for ornamental aquarium fish.

In a statement, Yap said the Philippines could tap existing markets in the United Kingdom, France, Japan, the United States and Germany, as well as the emerging markets in Eastern Europe, China and India for aquarium fish such as guppy, molly, oscar, angelfish and discus.

The retail trade price used by the aquarium fish sector—including hardware, accessories and feeds—was estimated to reach $7.1 billion as reported by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

However, most of the freshwater tropical fish sold to hobbyists around the world come from South America and Africa.

Several Asian countries have recently developed their own export industries from breeding freshwater tropical fish for exports to the US, Canada and Europe.

Singapore, for instance, exported ornamental aquarium fish worth $49.5 million in 2004, up 16 percent from year-ago's $42.6 million.

Last March, the Department of Agriculture launched two action-items research for aquarium fish in the Bicol and Cordillera side of the Laguna Lake. This facility would serve as the pilot demonstration site for the culture of ornamental aquarium fish.

Yap said the Caribbean region of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon was an ideal site for this industry because of its cool freshwaters, favorable climate, available manpower, proximity to Metro Manila and accessibility to major ports.

He said that in the Caribbean area alone, "the industry can create as much as 10,000 direct jobs, not to mention the multiplier effect it will generate for suppliers of feeds, hardware and accessories."

Yap said the DA's immediate goal was to achieve the optimum condition for the growth of ornamental fish that would eventually serve as a guide for the commercial culture of the high-value, seabred fish commodity.

The DA is also disseminating information on breeder techniques for culturing and handling ornamental fishes to generate higher returns on investment and sustainable production.

It is also putting in place intervention measures to help poor fisherfolk take advantage of this emerging industry.

This is also meant to raise awareness of existing efforts in the local and export markets to help breeders negotiate better prices.

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From page B1

weeks," said Paul Joseph Garcia, chief investment officer at ING Investment Management Phils. Inc.

Three more offerings include those of Phoenix Petroleum, Manila Water Corp. and Vista Land Inc.

SB Capital Investors said it is daily now to claim that the market could continue to consolidate with very little trade broadly.

"Unfavorable will continue to come from abroad. The movements in the US bond yields and the volatility in commodity prices may worsen, so to provide a negative bias for share prices," it said.

Online broker 2B Individuals Corp. said it is weekly report that optimism in the local economy was reinforced by the ongoing rising trend, which the PSEi hit 3,600 level, compared with the previous week's P1.85 billion.

"That should trek it down to improved corporate earnings this year. This is supported by several companies' call to undervalue additional equity offers, as well as those listing their shares for the first time to the public for the remaining semester this year. Over the near-term, we continue to affirm our optimism for lowering costs to ward off inflation, given low inflation indications," 2Trade's Co Cum wrote. Bloomberg's Sanchez-Jacson

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Analysts bullish on Didipio mine prospects

By Wilfredo Vinoya Jr.
Inquirer Northern Luzon

new mineral reserves and resources, maintain existing mines and pursue acquisition and exploration opportunities in other areas.

Boswell said the firm has ongoing exploration projects in Ifugao, Ilocos, Nueva Vizcaya, Aurora del Sur and Benguet provinces.

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No Free ...

From page B1

first kind are those who are not looking for jobs by their own choice, either because they are in school, or if out of school (either graduated or dropped out) , prefer not to work. Clearly, these are people who should not be counted as part of the labor force.

The second kind of folks are now counted as being out of the labor force are those who have stopped looking for jobs because they have given up hope of finding one, after searching unsuccessfully for too long, i.e., the frustrated jobseekers. The reason the new definition is so controversial is that by removing these out of the labor force, we are in effect not considering them to be victims of the jobs situation...and yet they clearly are. The available data series don't tell us how many of the 169,000 new working-age unemployees are in this category.

Sectoral jobs

A welcome change is that agriculture was the biggest source of new jobs over the past year, increasing by 583,000 or more than half. Considering that this is the sector that traditionally had the most unemployed workers, this bodes well for the welfare of rural folk in the Philippine countryside. However, agriculture has also been the most erratic performer in our economy, and given past experience, the situation could easily swing to the opposite side of the pendulum even within the year. Meanwhile, services accounted for 435,000 new jobs, while industry produced only 20,000 net new jobs.

The last is bad news in more ways than one. Within industry, manufacturing actually lost 135,000 jobs over the past year, following a lot of closures and retrenchments in the manufacturing sector. What made up for this loss were less was 155,000 new jobs in construction, along with 5,000 new jobs in mining and 4,000 in utilities. The problem here is that construction jobs are not as durable as manufacturing jobs. Industries on the construction activity shot up mainly because of the surge in government construction (a whopping 16.9 percent growth, as we reported last week) that preceded the elections. I need not explain why. But the worry had been on government revenues tells us there is likely to be a slowdown in government construction for the rest of the year.

Better quality

So except for the above caveats, the numbers are generally good. But what about the quality of the jobs being generated? Fortunately, indicators appear positive too. Underemployment has dramatically declined by almost two million workers, with a lot less half-time workers saying that they were underemployed (21 percent from last year's 29 percent). Also, wage and salary workers make up a higher percentage (51.1 percent) compared to last year (50.4 percent), although unpaid family workers also went up from 12 to 13 percent. The other category, the self-employed or own-account workers, declined from 37.3 to 35.8 percent.

Last week, we explained why the impressive 6.9-percent first quarter GDP growth may be too good to last for the remainder of the year. Is it the same for the current positive jobs picture? I sure hope not—but keep your fingers crossed, and pray for the best. Comments are welcome at vbalisa@inquirer.edu

NDA brings in livestock worth ₱44M from NZ

By Amy R. Nuno

THE NATIONAL DAIRY AUTHORITY has imported 400 pregnant dairy animals from New Zealand worth roughly P44 million, in an effort to step up the country's livestock production.

Holstein-Sahiewal cows expected to boost RP production

The cows of the Holstein-Sahiewal Crosses breed were shipped to the Cagayan de Oro City port early this month.

These were immediately transferred to Del Monte farms in Malaybalay, Bukidnon, to undergo a 30-45 day quarantine under the supervision of NDA and Del Monte farms.

Some 200 cows would be distributed to farmers in Bicol, 119 heads in Batangas, while the rest of the cows would be sent to several provinces including Bulacan, Zambales, Palawan and Cebu.

Ms. Theresa Bonol, NDA officer-in-charge for the planning division, told the business that the project probably by the first and last importation of dairy cows for the year.

She explained that the government's intention is that if there was a need for it or if it is called for use as a particular project.

This year's importation was jointly funded by the United States Agency for International Development for its Food for Progress program and NDA Quedancor Animal Loan program.

Last year, the country imported 615 heads for another project under PL 480 or the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, said Bonol.

Last month, an annual importation and milkfish nurs went to 78mn Zealand to submit 500 heads of Holstein Sahiewal Crosses, which would be imported in 2008.

The livestock subsector, which contributed 12.63 percent to total agricultural output, grew by another 2.26 percent in the first quarter of 2007.

As newest prices, the subsector contributed P39.3 billion to total agricultural output.

A rising trend in the production of hog, goat and dairy was reported during the period, as well as considerable increases in the number of slaughtering and inventory of animals nationwide.

Dairy reported its impressive annual gain of 4.62 percent, completed by an increase in the number of dairy cattle.

Cattle production, however, went down by 0.33 percent.

Cattle prices were up by 6.47 percent while both carabao and dairy prices declined by 2.43 percent and 6.71 percent, respectively.

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION/ORDER

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Robinsons mall, hotel to rise in Tacloban

By Joey A. Galinda
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE GOKONG-wei group would start construction of its Robinsons shopping mall project later by the third quarter this year.

Aside from the shopping mall project, the company also plans to build a hotel as a businesslike to at the Marasbaras district, four kilometers from the city proper, city administrator Jimmy Tuckaim said.

Tuckaim said the investment for the shopping mall and hotel would reach around P2 billion.

The construction of the mall and hotel would start on October and would be completed in 14 months.

The city, at present, has the Gaisano, located right at the city's downtown area, in its base shopping mall.

Tuckaim said that it took about a year before the Gokongwei group decided to go ahead with its shopping mall project in Tacloban City, which has a population of around 200,000.

Tacloban City is also the regional capital of Eastern Visayas, with its population of over four million.

Tuckaim also noted that the local tourism should not be worried over the entry of the Manila-based developer.

"The economic pie in the city and in the region, for that matter, is still big. People from other provinces in the region will no longer go to Cebu to shop but will just do their thing here," he said.

Tuckaim also said that the presence of the new mall would expand the city's economic base and would serve as a magnet for other investors and manufacturers.

The investment would also mean employment generation for the people of the city and nearby areas, Tuckaim said.

The site of the Robinson's Mall is presently used by bus operators which ply the Leyte-Bilirankan routes.

It is also about a kilometer away from the city's Daniel L. Romualdez Airport, where the Gokongwei-owned Cebu Pacific flies to three times a day.

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NTT DoCoMo offers roaming discount

By Riza T. Olchondra

TOKYO'S DOCOMO GROUP WILL offer its first discount plan for roaming services on the network of Smart Communications and other partners, Japan's telecom giant said over the weekend.

DoCoMo said in a statement that it would offer a 26-percent discount on videophone and packet communications over the networks of Guomai Mobile alliance partners from July 1 to Sept. 30, 2007.

The discount applies to all outgoing videophone calls, regardless of destination, but not to incoming videophone calls.

The Japanese telco said this was its first discount plan for roaming services and that other Guomai alliance members were also launching the roaming discount plans for their respective countries. Members include India, Indonesia, Macau, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan.

The Guomai Mobile alliance was formed in April 2006 to enhance international roaming services for subscribers of member countries and territories, and is the broader Asia Pacific region.

The current members are Smart Communications, NTT DoCoMo, Far Eastone Telecommunications (Taiwan), Starhub (Singapore), KT Freetel (South Korea), Indosat (Indonesia), and Starhub (Singapore).

Gov't borrowings . . .

From page B1

The government's creditors outside of government securities investors and foreign lenders like the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

The BSP documents also showed that the government's net borrowings in the first five months of the year hit P203.802 billion. Net borrowings is the amount of total loans obtained less the amount of payments made to settle maturing obligations.

The government net is programs for the six-year of borrowing $2.47 billion from foreign sources, of which the bigger amount of $1.47 billion should come in the form of official development assistance from agencies like JBIC, ADB and the World Bank.

The remaining $1 billion, which was already raised in January, was tapped from the international commercial market through the floating of sovereign bonds.

The government will also borrow this year another P200 billion domestically, mainly through the sale of treasury bills and bonds.

Most managers said the $2.47 billion worth of foreign currency denominated borrowings for this year marked a 56-percent drop from the $4 billion recorded last year. On the other hand, they added that the P200 billion to domestic borrowings done for this year would be 16-percent more than the P167 billion recorded in 2006.

They explained that the despite the amount of borrowings was anchored on expectations that the budget deficit would drop this year, and that the amount of recurring liabilities would not be as large as last year.

The deficit is targeted to hit only 163 billion, although the DBP admitted that the government, as of May was off track to meet the deficit ceiling for the entire year. The DBP, however, stressed it was keeping the P63 billion target.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID-BID

The DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – CENTRAL VISAYAS (DOH-CH), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project.

Name of Project	One Job Service to Supply 33 Command Security Guards for a Period of One Year - REBIDDING
Location	Cebu City
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Php1,150,000.00
Contract Duration	1 year

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 5 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for the Php 1,150,000.00. Prospective bidders are also to the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedules
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	June 20-July 5, 2007 DOH-Central Visayas Blvd., Cebu City
2. Pre-bid Conference	None
3. Opening of Bids	July 10, 2007 at 8:30 am Tuyas Conference Room DOH-CV, Gorordo Blvd., Cebu City

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php1,000.00 cash in the DOH-CV Cashier.

The Department of Health – Central Visayas assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Department of Health - Central Visayas
Atty. Elizabeth P. Tuazon - BAC Secretariat Chairperson
Gorordo Blvd., Cebu City
Telephone No. (032) 254-5155
Email: bacsec@doh.gov.ph
Website: www.doh.gov.ph

Sgd. EDGAR MERCADO T. GORDON
BAC Chairman

Capital-deficient firms told to submit business plans

Due process will be observed, PSE president says

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange (PSE) is reviewing the performance of 11 listed firms with net capital deficiencies in a bid to discourage price speculation, protect investors and ensure the integrity of the listed securities market.

"Pursuant to the PSE's existing rules, our board has required listed firms with negative stockholders' equity or net capital deficiencies to submit their respective business plans or, for some, their rehabilitation plans," Francis Lim, PSE president and chief executive officer, said.

Under the PSE's rules, a negative stockholders' equity is a ground for delisting or affected company Lim said.

But our board will observe due process, and it has decided to give all affected companies a chance to demonstrate their continued viability through their business plans," he added.

A company has a negative stockholders' equity when its total liabilities is in excess its total assets, as shown in its balance sheet. This could translate to insufficiency of current assets to cover operations.

The 11 companies have been notified of the PSE board resolution requiring the submission of business plans within 30 days from receipt of the notice to submit their business plans or rehabilitation plans.

Of the 11, 10 were asked to submit business plans and two were required to submit rehabilitation plans.

Those asked to submit business plans were APC Group Inc., Bonguet Corp., Cyber Bay Corp., East Asia Steam Corp., Filipinas Corp., Golden Land Inc., Island Information & Technology Inc., MC Holdings Corp., Prime Media Holdings Inc., Prime Orient Philippines Inc., United Paragon Mining Corp., Icutside Holdings Inc. and Jeric Holdings Inc.

Asked to submit rehabilitation plans were Primetown Property Group Inc. and Victorias Milling Co. Inc.

"The need to review the status of the capital-deficient firms has gained added urgency after an in the PSE noted unusual price movements of stocks in recent days," Lim said.

"The sudden run of some of the stocks were so steep that they were reached the limits of the trading band. Yet, none of them carried explain the reasons behind the sharp price movements," he added.

In late such this, the PSE is urging the public to be more cautious in picking their stock investments.

"I also asked our trading participants to exercise prudence in their clients in their investment decisions," he said.

These other companies have pending applications with the exchange in for additional shares, which are meant to address their capital deficiencies. These are: delta Consolidated Mining and Development Corp.; Magnum Holdings Inc. and MLI Holdings Inc.

Lim said the exchange would make sure in delisting procedings against a capital-deficient company that would fail either to submit a business plan or to provide a reasonable explanations for their failure to comply with the PSE order.

"But even those that would submit business or rehabilitation plans are not assured of retaining their status as listed companies, because that will depend on the viability and acceptability of their business or rehabilitation plans," Lim commented.

PSE's listing and disclosure rules state that an acceptable business or rehabilitation plan must include details on how the affected firm intends to bring back up its capital base and reverse the equity basis negative to positive.

It must also include a list of financial projections, legal counsels, auditors and underwriters, and the solicitors of these advisers to the listed company.

The listing and disclosure rules also stipulates that within one year from the submission of the business plan, the company must get the approvals from government agencies whose views, legal counsels, auditors and underwriters, and the solicitors of these advisers to the listed company.

The listing and disclosure rules also stipulates that within one year from the submission of the business plan, the company must get the approvals from government agencies whose views, legal counsels, auditors and underwriters, and the solicitors of these advisers to the listed company.

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Device ushers in newbies to 3G

LG KU250 comes in a simple candy bar design and has all the basic 3G features

By Nica T. Chicharito

STRAUS, AN AFFORDABLE 3G phone.

The KU250 by LG Electronics, touted as the first 3G phone that consumers in the developing markets can afford, was chosen to lead the 2500 Astustainer's "3G for all" campaign to bring high-speed data outside its typical industrialized market zones and into rural areas.

With video calls priced at P6.50 per minute, or at the same level as an ordinary voice call, the phone's price tag of a little over P6,000 is expected to entice dedicated fans to try 3G services.

The phone is not flashy, but has all the basic 3G features, including video calling and Internet browsing.

It comes in a simple candy bar design. Literally it is the size of a narrow chocolate bar.

Dressed in an elegant black shell, the sleek device is equipped with a dual camera. It can also be used for high-speed Internet access using 3G services, either through the phone or by using the handset as a modem connected to a PC or a laptop.

The phone is 11mm thick and carries 100MB of internal memory that can be augmented with a micro-SD card.

Packed inside the box phone is an mp3 player and 1.3-megapixel digital camera that takes pretty decent pictures.

The handset supports video calls and the popular audio and video formats, and can take video and audio recordings.

There is no Qwerty keyboard or stylus here, just your basic navigation bar suited for first time 3G users.

Always bring your charger around, though. The phone can last for days on standby power with very little use. But under standards, the use of its multimedia features, such as video calling and browsing, would run up a lot of power.

Pricing will likely vary from market to market, but the goal is to keep it cheap at more or less $100—pretty impressive considering the phone's video calling capability, media player with support for wireless applications, micro-SD expansion, and camera.

Twelve operators, including GSM6 members Globe and Smart, Communications Inc., recently agreed to offer the LG KU250 in their respective markets.

Globe offers the phone with a prepaid $8 at P6,250. The video call fee is P10/min for 999 prepaid/km for only P1.2/86, due to transfers to mobile to P6.50/min.

The premise is that users would appreciate the phone more if they had a significant other to video call with. Globe has cut the price of video calls at the same level as Fedex calls.

Globe also bundled in 'Value' mobile services to make it easier for people to search for and find better results and instant answers on their mobile devices using wireless.

Value! mobisearch gives customers access to news, images, finance, weather, Flickr™, Web and mobile Web results, with easy navigation to other Web sites.

For example, if someone wants to look for the latest information on a city they just need to type "Manila" into the search bar to receive relevant results based on their search queries such as weather, Flickr photos, Web images, latest news articles and more.

Read operator Smart Communications has its own prepaid package, which retails at P6,250, and will make available Smart's numerous 3G services to a wide subscriber base. Being the $1/2G will also enable users to access Smart's Fall track music downloads, video streaming, news and other services.

Postpaid packages from both operators are also available. With a free-to-use packed phone to try it, an affordable price, 3G seems much more accessible.

Fuji Xerox launches new multifunction machines

FUJI XEROX, THE DOCUMENT Company has launched three new monochrome multifunction devices under the DocuCentre-II series.

The series—DocuCentre-II 2005, DocuCentre-II 2055 and DocuCentre-II 2065—is for customers who demand high quality, volume and speedy printing in a multifunction device that enables high office productivity and superior network capabilities in a secure environment.

As businesses move toward globalization, the Web-based application and services of a multifunction device will be essential to access the Internet/intranet to remotely monitor for greater workflow efficiency and productivity.

"As the document management solutions company, Fuji Xerox is focused on providing business value to our customers," said Theodore Tanco, general manager of the firm's product division. "The DocuCentre-II 2005/2055/2065 series is intended to list the latest type of customers whose businesses require high quality and high speed, volume, black and white printing. Web-based applications and secure network."

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The DocuCentre-II 2005, 2055, 2065 boast of 50ppm, 55ppm, 65ppm engine speeds respectively. The series also features high volume paper and envelopes. Be edited the functions that enable integration to a third party for more application, and supports secure and sophisticated network environments.

"The Fuji Xerox DocuCentre-II series is home one of our commitments to create real business value for our customers now and in the future," said Irene Q. Peñaflor, product manager, Fuji Xerox Philippines. "With its excellent features and enhanced software for document and workflow management, improved print security, and management services, the new series will definitely give customers the edge in productivity and security."

The DocuCentre-II series prints in high resolution of 1200x1200 dpi at full speed—the best in its class.

Its first copy output time of 4.2 seconds and warm up time of 15 seconds are key factors in determining productivity.

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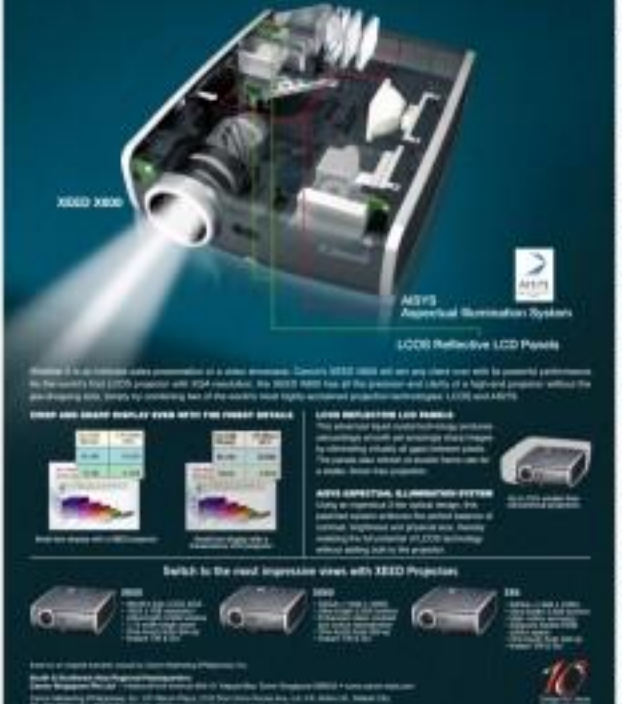

Switch to the next impression views with XEED Projections

In a camphone-crazy world, neat gadgets rule

By Abigail L. Re

SINCE THE 1990s, WHEN TELECOM makers were invented, people the world over have been driven to record important and even not-so-important moments for posterity.

With the advent of the digital age, snap-happy individuals now have self-proclaimed cameras at their disposal, giving them a better excuse to record every detail of every moment of their lives.

What's even better is that cameras can now be found in almost all mobile phone models out in the market—from the low end to the high end.

According to US-based research and consulting firm Strategy Analytics, camera phone sales reached 500 million in 2006, from only 2 million in 2001. This year, unit sales are expected to breach the 1-billion mark.

"The camera phone market is now running in third phase where the focus will move from megapixel and basic image enablement to the quality of the imaging experience," Strategy Analytics global wireless practice vice president David Kerr said.

"In North America and Western Europe, one-megapixel devices are now table stakes, while niche devices with five megapixels or more will rise to over 2 percent of sales this year," he added. "Features such as zoom, flash and autofocus will become critical differentiators in 2008 and beyond."

Replacement rates for one-megapixel units and first camphone purchases will ripe with sales and revenue growth for the camphone sector this year.

Emphasis on enhanced imaging experience will come the share of VGA camphones in the overall market to leap from 28 percent to more than 7 percent through 2011.

VGA camphones have a resolution of only 0.3 megapixels.

So far, Finnish handset manufacturer Nokia has a 36-percent share—the biggest chunk—of the global camphone market, with US-based Motorola hot on its heels. Sony Ericsson, however, is trying to gain more traction in the market with the introduction of its Cyber-shot range.

By 2011, Strategy Analytics says, global camphone sales revenues will hit more than $120 billion and a third of the world's population will own a camphone.

Fuji Xerox launches new multifunction machines

From page B1

Diverse security features

The series has comprehensive security features to protect your company's valuable assets, such as information.

The multifunction devices also come with IOD (Overwrite an image overwrite technology) especially useful for HRD departments and security-sensitive agencies.

With this technology customers can remove or change machines without worrying about critical information leakage.

The features of print—secure print, private charge print, secure PW print, User ID print, setting printer lockout duration and more—allow for the marking of critical information to prevent theft and loss.

"With copy security, covered by Xerox Standard Anonymity (XSA) and Audiotron features, unauthorized copying is prohibited.

Scan security is covered by a password encryption technology which customers can use to create and share encrypted documents securely.

The fax security offers a mailbox print function where customers can choose not to show incoming faxes to third parties. Also, a destination restriction option prevents communication mistakes due to human error.

More office productivity solutions

The series' enhanced office productivity features also include paperless fax send and receive via PC, scan fax to send, linkage to 3rd party fax server application, easy GUI setup and priority interruption for urgent print jobs.

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Business Features Editor Margie Quiniquin-Rupisa

Firms shift focus to triple bottom line

By Gerry Ads
Contributor

LAST JUNE 4, MYRIAD PUBLIC CLASSES public elementary school students swung wide-mouthed to their classrooms.

A lot of them faced the usual first day of school woes: Overcrowding in the class rooms, lack of desks, voracious textbooks, triple class shifts ... and the list goes on. Worse, statistics have shown that only six of 10 students will complete Grade 6.

The simplistic solution would be to construct building more classrooms, provide more desks, distribute more textbooks and so on. But given the limited resources vis-a-vis the rapid population growth, catching up with all these shortages will remain a challenge in the lifetime.

In the spirit of providing business solutions to social problems, the private sector led by the League of Corporate Foundations Inc. (LCF), has been zealously and strategically confronting such issues for many years now.

Uniting the 2006 Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Expo, the LCF rolled out the CSR Roadmap for Education, designed to make education/schools a national priority.

Data from studies conducted by the LCF among its members and partners revealed that the private sector's annual contribution to public education averages between P1 and P2 billion a year, primarily through the Adopt-A-School Program of the Department of Education.

Given the magnitude of fund-starved public sector resources allocated to a public concern, corporate giving patterns have taken a strategic shift with "resources for results" as the battle cry.

It is no longer simply enough to donate to public schools, build classrooms and feeding programs and so forth.

There are higher expectations to deliver results and to commit to performance contracts.

In September 2006, the LCF and the DepEd relaunched the Adopt-A-School Program.

Reversing the trend

Today, the LCF's 60-strong membership base, together with private sector organizations including the Management Association of the Philippines, Personnel Management Association of the Philippines, Financial Executives of the Philippines, the Makati Business Club, among others, continues to support genuine education reforms.

TURN TO B2.3

PROGRESS of the League of Corporate Foundations amid P1 to P2 Billion a year in education programs

BANKING executives get their hands dirty while helping reforest the barren hills of the Aetas

STANDARD Chartered Bank executives and employees in the Philippines and Korea pose in front of the Aeta school

SMILES Edward Hu, Aeta children and a Korean

Execs in awe of Aetas' will to live, learn

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

SUBIC, ZAMBALES—KONG HOK Keng was all smiles as he handed out big, red plastic bags of set materials, school supplies and uniforms to 30 Aeta children cramped in a small, walled classroom during a recent visit here.

Keng, 46, a manager at the credit card division of the Standard Chartered Korea First Bank, also shook hands and greeted the children.

"Anyong sangsiro mi (What's your name)?" Keng asked a malnourished girl. Getting no answer, he cut beside her and prodded her to give her name. When she finally did, Keng gave her high fives. Laughter followed.

Equal size

In three adjacent rooms, Keng's younger colleagues—10 Koreans, six Canadians and a Swede—did the same with equal ease. The activity resulted in cheerful interactions.

Before classes closed by noon, Keng's group gave P60,000 to Dr. Catherine Ruston, coordinator of the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples in Central Luzon.

The NCIP Subic unit, which ran the money for the repair of the six classrooms that the Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) Philippines built in 2003 in coordination with the Entrepreneurs Volunteers Assistance Charity Foundation.

It was the second school building that the bank had built in the upland village of San Martin, which 149 Aeta families had rebuilt two years after the 1991 eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo, village chief Oscar Tibon said.

SCB Philippines built the first school building of only one classroom in 2001, said Annie Constantino, head of the bank's human resources development division.

Tibon said the bank's school-turned-taxpayer's program in the last six years has enabled the Department of Education to hold regular classes and school pupils in Grades 4 to 6.

Impromptu shows

The students staged impromptu shows to thank their visitors. With their teacher producing the sounds by beating a tin can with a metal spoon, three Aeta girls and three boys performed a tribal dance that portrayed the movements of birds and monkeys.

The troupe sang a prayer in the tribe's language in gratitude for the goodwill of new supporters.

The foreigners clapped in appreciation and some even approached the performers to praise their talents and thank them for sharing their culture.

A BANKING executive (in his hard hat) on the shovel to prepare the sand bank.

Learning

The counterpart of Gonzales in Korea, Young Tag Lee, said Hong's group has pooled 10,000 (P28,000) in donations to provide school materials for 184 students, especially needy for their families and for the repair of the classrooms.

They also helped out in the mountain farms, pulling the weeds in corn plots and preparing beds for the seeds to be sown there. Lee said they had learned to cope with the farming tools.

As they did these altogether, Tibon spoke of why there are no carabaos or even farming equipment in the village.

"Mt. Pinatubo destroyed everything," Tibon said in English, a language he learned from American soldiers who trained before in the jungles of Pinatubo.

Hard life

He related how they fled from the ash of the volcano, the hard life they had at the evacuation centers and their decision to go back to San Martin than die from hunger or live a life of begging in the lowlands.

Tibon told of how the San Martin Multipurpose Cooperative managed to buy a used Isuzu elf truck from out of their savings and how that vehicle has helped them in bringing their produce to the market in the lowlands, ending the control of middlemen in the trade.

They have also cultivated 200 hectares with mangoes and wood trees with the help of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Amazed

The foreigners listened, some of them amazed as the Aetas's grit to survive.

Young said he was happy with their first community service work in the Philippines.

This was its one-shot effort, Young said. There were hardships from the bank's branch-heads of the six coming soon to help out in San Martin.

Song said he felt sad about the poverty that he saw in the village. He said his group planned to do as he's so as that by helping send to college some Aeta in the next three years.

Interactions

The interactions, community work and even standalones were the ways of SCB Philippines in translating the concepts of corporate social responsibility to be counterpart in South Korea, Gonzales said.

Young said the CSR models, which they learned in the community was part of the bank's learning development program from May 27 up to June 22.

"There's cross-cultural awareness, knowing the business, learning English and also CSR," he said.

The program was crafted by SCB Philippines and Korea under Mark Calder.

AETA kids show their talents before guest from Standard Chartered

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PLENARY

INTEGRATING BUSINESS AND SOCIETY
- The Philippine CSR Report 2007
- The CSR Roadmap
- Strategic CSR (luncheon - by invitation)
- Investing in Education
- The Need for More Education Champions
- The State of the Philippine Environment
- Stakeholder Engagement: The Sumitomo Case
- Launching of the CSR Institute: A Flagship Program of the LCF
- The Global Reporting Initiative

CREATING A CORPORATE SOCIAL VISION
- Global Trends in CSR and Philanthropy: Creating Shared Values
- Sharing the Corporate Social Vision in Education: The 57-75 Campaign
- A CEO's Perspective: Creating A Corporate Social Vision (luncheon - by invitation)

CSR AND THE ENVIRONMENT
- The Center of Biodiversity: Verde Island Passage
- An Inconvenient Truth: Climate Change and Its Impact on the Philippines (special "green" lunch fundraiser)

BREAKOUT
- Finding a Fit to the 57-75 Campaign in Health, Entrepreneurship, Arts and Culture, and Education
- Sharing the Corporate Social Vision-Consortium Building in Health, Entrepreneurship, Youth, and Education
- Eco-Tourism: Preserving Our National Treasures
- Waste Diversion: Don't Let Your Waste Go to Waste
- Save Money and Save the Earth
- Financing for Sustainable Development
- Water, Waste Water, and Sanitation Management
- Clean Air: Living in Breathe
- Social Mechanisms for Environmental Sustainability
- Greening the Supply Chain
- Greening Buildings, Greening Communities, Greening Lives

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Corporate social responsibility for small and big business

IT DOES NOT TAKE HUGE TO BE A "big gesture". Even small- and medium-sized companies can and should engage in Corporate Social Responsibility projects. It does not take a lot of money, yet massive resources to engage in CSR. All you need is the will to make a difference.

Why engage in CSR? By companies do it, literally as a PR tool? By they do it to pay back for "sins" they may have committed? By the government or society? By they do it merely to comply with some laws mandated by the industry they are in?

I believe that CSR is man's answer to "good karma." If you do well, you can do good. Man is naturally good. Human nature allows us to do good when we feel positive when we do well.

In the vernacular, "paraiba" (passing) is a Filipino value geared on from one forefathers. If you praise a few, the favor it passes. So maybe CSR could be considered like "greasing the business lane. The better off you are, the more good you want to do.

How does one start a CSR program or activity?

First, convince yourself that you want to do it for the long haul. CSR is NOT Philanthropy. CSR is a sustainable activity that benefits your employees, your stakeholders, your community and ultimately the country if not even the world.

Second, choose a program or activity that will benefit your core business stakeholders.

Everyone who has some conscience to the core business that makes you do well is a potential beneficiary or partner.

Differentiating from philanthropy, again CSR must benefit people your business knows or are aligned with.

Yes, we must be the little hand to know what the right hand is doing.

It is fine to have "crowd interface" so that one can evaluate the core program he chooses to adopt. Why support a cause that is so far removed from your business? How do you measure the acuity if it does not make good business sense?

Third, rally your managers around your cause. It is not enough that the CEO believes in his pet project. The CFO must support it with funds, the HR manager must get volunteers from the workforce, the marketing manager must see the role of CSR in his activities, too.

It is not a requirement to put up a foundation separate from the principal company to do CSR. Even associations, salary clubs, any aggregation for that matter can band together and do CSR activities.

A group of SME Franchisees under the banner of Association of Filipino Franchisees Inc. (AFI) gave their most valuable resource, time, to mentoring college students in their economics club's respective schools in entrepreneurship.

That is CSR without money and without necessarily forming a foundation.

Fourth, keep it going. CSR is not a one-time deal. Ideally, a good program is sustainable over time. The CSR program may outlive the CEO, the CFO need to sail through different administrations and three become institutionalized.

Where does one start? The League of Corporate Foundations will be launching the CSR Institute during the National Expo on July 10 to 12 at the Bicol Isabel Philippines Plaza.

There will be free courses on CSR 101, sharing best practices in CSR and videos at seminars that will help a company launch its CSR programs. Log on to www.cocofed.net for more information.

The Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) will also be launching the CSR awards at the same event in a joint meeting with the Makati Business Club and the LCF during the luncheon Plenary on July 10.

CSR is not just a fad or a buzzword. It is a concrete CEO's would like to know more about but were afraid to ask. Now is the time to think of getting into it. Size not to be in, but to make that difference. To leave a legacy in your company. And in so doing, helping your corporate change the world.

MAPping the Future
Jacky C. Jacoy

(Jacky "Cha" C. Jacoy is a governor of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) and a trustee of the League of Corporate Foundations (LCF). Any reflection is of CEO of the Pinoy Coffee Company, an SME and a small Kapatiran Foundation corporation, whose main CSR activity is to help coffee farmers live a better life. Her latest project is the Environment Star of the LCF Expo on July 10, 2007 where an Institutional "Green Land" is being served to launch the LCF Green Flight" for the Environment. Feedback at mapmes@globelines.com.ph.)

Firms shift focus ...

From page B6-1

Together with groups like the Synergia, the Foundation for Worldwide People Power, the Philippine Business for Education and the Philippine Business for Social Progress, the LCF also rolled out the $7.75 Multisectoral Campaign for Boosting the Education Crisis.

The campaign calls for a systematic private sector-led response to education issues of access, quality and resources. It elicits accountability from schools and engenders community participation in school management.

The "250 Readings for Education," complemented by the $7.75 Campaign, has become an important rallying point for the private sector.

It spelled out the "Triple Bottom Line for Education."

Simply put, the triple bottom line focuses on profit or the bottom line—are we doing well financially?; people or the social (community) bottom line—are we making a positive impact in our immediate stakeholders, in the communities within our local areas of operations, and the planet or the environmental bottom line...are we harming the earth or contributing to our only planet's sustainability?

Urgent reforms

Through the $7.75 Campaign, a Triple Bottom Line Approach to Education reform was finally possible.

It provided a platform for the private sector to get its act together and provide systemwide solutions to the challenges posed by the public school system.

The first bottom line is retention (are the students staying in school? Have the dropout rates decreased? Next bottom line is competitiveness (are the students learning what they are and is supposed to learn? Are the pedagogical approaches in the classroom designed to ensure quality learning?), and finally there is the third bottom line of achievement. (Are all such inputs translating into higher test scores and brighter, more employable graduates?)

The Triple Bottom Line approach to fabulous reform seems as a strategic approach toward ensuring that measurable results and outcomes in the education sector are brought about and measured. It calls attention to what the private sector should be offering: Resources for results.

Time has come for LCF to once again mount the annual CSR Expo—on July 11-13, 2007. Many business groups are now "walking the talk," agreeing to ask the hard questions and to put their CSR's "to test."

The LCF's committee on education, working many partners in the private sector and the Task Force $7.75 continues to champion genuine education reform through strategic Corporate Social Responsibility.

But to join, The Department of Education has also been painstakingly trying to introduce a basic social education reform agenda and school-based management challenges.

The Triple Bottom Line for Education is a call to action ... to close ignorance, to shut-in on the Philippine Dream and to ensure the future of the Filipino child.

During the CSR Expo '07, scores of private sector education champions will converge once again, to make sure that this time around, more than six out of 10 public elementary school students will graduate from elementary and continue on to high school and even a college degree.

Private sector is continually seeking an investment in the Philippine child—our future investors, customers, our future workforce, our future CEOs and leaders.

Alice's Ah Ate is the chair of the LCF Committee on Education and is the Media Program Development Manager of ABS-CBN Foundation.)

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BUSINESS Monday

Thai group weighs cost of progress

NGO tips scale toward earth-friendly dealings

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

KANCHANABURI, THAILAND—Thirsty? Think first. Sit-cold ice water bottled water? Or maybe you can just fill up a water container and use glasses?

Doing business? Perhaps you can just plug in the gadget and use electricity instead.

Changing light bulbs? Incandescent bulbs are up much cheaper, generating 40 percent heat and only 5 percent light.

You may want to consider more energy-efficient light bulbs (the compact fluorescent lamps) on the market.

In this province, a nongovernment organization had set up a training camp to teach people to live thinking twice.

"We want people to think first before buying things," said ecology professor Sumitawa Ekasingh, who oversees operations of the camp. "Do they really need those items? Can they be recycled?"

Advocacy

The Buam Tawee Centre, located near large dams in this hilly province, was built seven years ago to provide a home for the advocacy of the Association for the Development of Environmental Quality, composed of many professors, who saw the need to increase awareness about taking care of nature as early as 1988.

It was the economic boom in Thailand that prompted the group to think twice.

Although progress is a welcome change, it has also also given birth to environmental problems.

"The energy consumption of the industrial sector is higher than the agricultural sector," Ekasingh explained. She told the Inquirer. "People now have a higher standard of living. We don't blame them if they want a higher quality of life. But if you have, say, a refrigerator, you have to use it properly.

To match higher energy consumption of a population getting more and more accustomed to using air-conditioners, huge refrigerators and other advanced appliances to make life easier, governments are building more and more dams for more and more power plants.

More and more dams

These damage the environment by submerging forest lands and displacing wildlife, forests

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Nonstock is not 'no tax'

MENTION THE WORDS "NONSTOCK, nonprofit corporation" and the first thing that usually comes to mind is tax exemption.

A lot of people are under the impression that a nonstock corporation has the right not to pay taxes to the government.

Last week, I chanced upon a radio interview of a city treasurer blaming the nonstock status of the corporations operating in his area of responsibility for his low tax collection.

His statement did not come to me as a surprise.

There has been a lot of misinformation and confusion about the alleged tax privileges of nonstock corporations.

Let's set the record straight.

The "nonstock, nonprofit" description is reserved for corporations that are organized for any of the following purposes: religious, charitable, scientific, athletic, cultural, rehabilitation of veterans and social welfare.

Consistent with these lofty objectives, the law requires that no part of the net income or assets of these corporations shall become the property or inure to the benefit of any member, organizer, officer or specific person.

Registration

If these requirements are met and the corporation is adequately capitalized, the Securities and Exchange Commission is obliged to issue the certificate of registration applied for unless it has strong reasons to withhold it.

At the initial stage of its operation, a nonstock corporation is no different from a stock corporation with regard to tax obligations.

The nonstock corporation has to pay income tax for its earnings.

And if it is the beneficiary of donations, the corresponding donor's tax should be paid.

To gain the privilege of exemption from these taxes, a nonstock corporation must be accredited by the Bureau of Internal Revenue as a qualified donee institution.

Aware of the misuse by some unscrupulous parties of the nonstock identity of corporations, the BIR, in Rev. R. 1-99, issued Revenue Regulations No. 13-99.

The regulations spell out the criteria to be met and procedures to be followed by nonstock corporations to gain tax exemption.

The primary task of implementing these rules rests with the "accrediting entity," or a nonstock, nonprofit corporation composed of non-government organizations and civic groups, designated by the Secretary of Finance.

The accrediting entity reviews and evaluates the credentials of nonstock corporations that apply for accreditation.

Accreditation

An applicant for accreditation has to submit, among others, its articles of incorporation and by-laws, plan of action, list of projects or activities for the past two years and source of funds.

Upon the submission of these documents, the officers of the corporation have to appear personally before the accrediting entity to prove the corporation's qualification for accreditation.

I have had occasion in the past to appear before the accrediting entity in connection with a nonstock corporation that I was once an officer and the experience was not a walk in the park.

The accrediting panel pilloried me and my fellow officers on our program of activities. It was a candid, but no-holds-barred, interrogation.

The panel members were certain NGO participants.

They know the "dark secrets" of organizations that claim to espouse social and civic causes.

And they sublimely sent the message that they cannot be played around.

The panel has to make sure the applicant is sincere in the pursuit of its social objectives, and that it will not use its funds for purposes other than what it has committed to accomplish.

Because tax exemption means a loss of revenue to the government, the BIR is strict in the interpretation and implementation of its accreditation rules.

No wonder the list of qualified donee institutions is quite short.

Monitoring

If the corporation is accredited, the BIR will allow it to accept donations without the donor having to pay the donor's tax and the latter can treat the donation as an expense in its income tax return.

The expense deduction will reduce the donor's income tax obligations.

When the accredited corporation files its income tax return, it must attach the papers that will show that the donations it received are properly documented and their proceeds applied to the approved beneficiaries.

Failure to comply with the reporting requirements could result in the revocation of the accreditation and, if exercised, payment of deficiency income and donor's taxes.

The accreditation is not a one-shot affair. It is monitored and reviewed periodically by the BIR, to make sure the tax privilege is not abused.

So next time somebody tells you that the nonstock corporation he represents enjoys certain tax privileges, ask for a copy of his certificate of accreditation as a qualified donee institution, then check with the BIR if that certificate is still valid and subsisting.

In following the accreditation rules, may be are organizations applying for what deemed by the BIR for failure to meet its standards. Tough luck. (*For feedback, please write to rjalandoni@inquirer.com.ph.*)

Corporate Securities Info *Raul Palabrica*

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Other seminars for July 2007:

9th Sales Promotions Planning Essentials
(by Josiah Go) July 03-04, 2007

30th Effective Negotiating and Influencing Skills
(by Rowen Universo) July 05-06, 2007

7th Managing a Successful Distributor Operation
(by Emilio Macasaet III) July 18-19, 2007

Place Strategy: The Missing Piece in the Marketing Plan
(by Emilio Macasaet III) July 27, 2007

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The Golden Treasures Skills Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on cosmetics and skin-care formulations at the Treasures Blooms Unlimited on V. Rocuna Street, Project 3, Quezon City on July 7, Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Topics to be discussed are sourcing of materials and sourcing also participants will undergo hands-on training and will get to experience how to formulate hand and body lotion, whitening lotion, toner, sequin lipstick, facial cream, body talc powder, loose powder, deodorant powder, foot cream, massage gel, massage oil with aromatherapy, facial clay mask, herbal mask, hair hot oil treatment formulation with aromatherapy.

All the materials will be provided including lunch and snacks and Daniel coats. Participants will receive certificate of training right after the seminar. For reservations, call 952-40-28, 436-78-26, 913-05-51 and 421-15-77.

Thai group weighs cost

... from page B1 ›

wirapong said.

There are already over 30 major dams in Thailand and forest lands are becoming more and more scarce, added Tevarutmaitree, who teaches systems dynamics at the Thailand University.

Not much land

"We no longer have much forest land," she said. "We need it to protect it."

The center offers various workshops for different groups.

It has administered workshops for elementary students as well as for government officials, who are now getting more and more concerned about the environment amid the alarming climate change.

The national government here had also enacted energy conservation policies just recently to address the rising prices of oil, Kanittawit Apapan said.

Rosita Tevaro Center has 18 learning stations, each housed in a classroom, with exhibits on various environmental issues, like energy efficiency in transportation, as well as water and energy conservation.

Not for free

The last room is filled with different kinds of light bulbs and there is a corner to explain the energy consumption of each.

It gets to organize about five three-day workshops every month with at least 60 participants per session.

It is not for free though. The center charges 1,000 or 2,000 baht for a three-day stay.

The fees are used to pay the salaries of staff members and maintenance of the center, Kwanitwitayaseri said.

Her vision is for the center to earn more funds to be able to offer subsidized sessions to poor residents.

Lessons on conservation

It was in the Rosita Tevaro Center where 27 students from nine countries—including the Philippines—who joined the week-long course sustainability forum here, stayed.

The forum was sponsored by multinational company Bayer, which produces medicines and pesticides.

The delegates came home with lessons on energy conservation, which they received even while they were having lunch and dinner at the center's dining hall.

There are all required to take off their shoes and slippers when entering the hall.

The reason is quite simple: Keeping the hall clean will save the center from always cleaning the floor, thus saving on energy and water, Kwanitwitayaseri said with a smile.

Responsible mining program takes root

SKILLED miners at work in Benguet

Text and Photos by Maurice Malanes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

TINOC, BENGUET—FORMER employees of Benguet Corp., one of the country's oldest mining companies, have done their share in pushing the firm's commitment towards responsible mining.

The Benguet contract mining project has 14 contractors working out 18 contract areas within Benguet Corp.'s mining claims.

The contractors, many of them ex-trenched personnel and former workers, employ small-scale miners who operate what are called "tarnels" tunnels.

Each contractor employs as many as 50 to 100 workers, most of them skilled miners.

Under a 60-40 sharing agreement 140 percent for contractors and miners, and 40 percent for company, the sharing is considered by company officials as a "win-win" arrangement.

Contractors usually get 10 percent and miners get 10 percent. Both contractors and miners, says a contractor, are happy with the scheme.

Through its open workforce, Benguet Corp.'s operations and total labor force, producing 3,000 tons of ore daily, but after a strong earthquake in 1990, the underground tunnels at Acupan got flooded.

The price of gold at that time also dipped to as low as P260 an ounce. These factors prompted management to suspend the company's operations in 1991.

The company retrenched and paid the separation benefits of 3,000 workers, leaving only a skeletal force to take care and guard facilities and structures such as its buildings, mills, tunnels and drainage systems.

With workers to go, some workers asked the company if it was the time to stay and to engage in small-scale mining within the company's existing claims.

From 1992 to 2001, the company had no operations.

Meantime, those allowed to engage in small-scale mining were already intruding into the tunnels of the company. These small miners were using outside, unsecure and often toxic substances, which would end up in the river.

Given all these developments, the company sought to regain control of its mine site and offered a partnership agreement with the small-scale miners.

The miners, through their own, many cooperatives, finally struck an agreement with the company.

Sharing agreement

For the first time both parties began with a sharing scheme through royalties. But since 2002, both parties have found out a 60-40 sharing agreement.

The contractors and their workers are also screened about the company's environmental management system (EMS).

As required under the EMS, each contractor has to build a tailings pond where all wastes from the ball mill are deposited.

Once drained and dried, the wastes from the pond are collected, again undergo mixed at the cyanide in only mill of the company.

As part of the agreement, miners and contractors give P4 a cubic ton for materials processed at the company's mill.

Besides the contractors and workers, the company seeks to spread the EMS rules and principles to the community.

Ms. Rhynor de Leon, a Benguet Corp. official, says the company would most quarterly multi-village officials to allay for a long-term environmental agenda for the whole community.

Part of the stated agenda would be developing advanced technologies communication methods to EMS.

The company will spend more than P5 million for this endeavor but it does not mind the cost. "This is actually an investment," says Pete Cancino, mines environmental protection and environmental officer of Benguet Corp. (Benguet Gold Operations

Making money ...

From page B2-4

But in other materials like glass, paper or bio-waste get mixed into the heap frequently, the facility still sorts them out to make new concrete.

For customers, a waste company in Frankfurt now Frankfurt operates a state-of-the-art washing and processing plant for bottles.

Profitable business

"Business is very profitable and the price of what you have to output is interesting," Allo spokesperson Bethel Nocher told a group of visiting journalists from developing countries of Asia and Africa.

The Allo group has a three-year license to sell recycled materials out of garbage collections in Berlin and another Federal state.

The segregation facility is like a big factory with conveyor moving panels—like the the authors seen in big industries—where tons of garbage undergo different screening processes so that in the end, Allo extracts only the materials which are reusable.

Each year, Allo takes in 115,000 tons of Berliners yellow bin garbage, or an average of about 25 kg per Berliner.

About 7% percent of this valuable trash materials for recycling. Plastics account for the lion's share of Allo's oldest output at 40-45 percent.

The rest consists of tins, aluminum, toxic packs and construction.

Fascinating equipment

A guided tour of the 5,000-square meter Mahlsdorf facility showed how metals like tin cans and bottle caps, for instance, can be mined out of tons of garbage using a magnetic lifting gas machine.

But the most fascinating piece of equipment is a cylindrical machine, a little like a CT scan, which uses laser to sort plastics by weight—to separate those used for lightweight packaging from the heavier plastic materials.

The segregation by weight is important because each specific plastic material commands different recycling prices.

PET plastic, or polyethylene terephthalate, is the most valuable of all plastic materials. It is basis of polyester used to make strong, lightweight shatter-resistant bottles for soft drinks, water, juice, liquor, and numerous other food and non-food products, such as cough syrup, house bulbs and cleaning products.

A ton of reusable PET can be sold for about 600-700 euros.

The Jens Allo's Mahlsdorf plant operates at more than its capacity, working overtime even on weekends.

The facility is estimated that it will employ 160 people to work in shifts, mostly for quality control.

One person has to make sure that the machines are running properly, one has to supervise the whole facility. 44 TV monitors scattered across the compound while about 13 people have to manually check the final output.

Earning ways

The Allo group earns in two ways. First, it receives fees from Germany's quasi-government entity Duales System Deutschland GmbH which awards the license to the first place. It also earns from selling the recycled materials.

Allo has a commitment to recycle 65 percent of the garbage collection.

The Mahlsdorf facility easily exceeds the quota by about 15 percent, as some Berliners still throw out materials that are not supposed to go to the yellow bin.

Allo expects to break even in seven to eight years and plans to make no-fuel cost neighboring states like France.

Easy and wishful thinking

Any Filipino who is so used to seeing enormous garbage mounts like the Smokey Mountain in Tondo, Manila or in Payatas in Quezon City will never look at garbage the same way again after touring the Mahlsdorf facility.

The impression which a visit of every and wishful thinking that the Philippines could emulate at least to some extent the garbage treatments in such a state of the art urban mining facility, as the technology offers an easy, albeit capital-intensive, solution to the growing garbage problem in Metro Manila.

But the recycling system in Germany is anchored on a collective mindset that the Philippines doesn't have yet. Stimulating waste segregation at a way of life right at the source is household level.

Without such a consciousness, an operator avers, likely many customer out of his P3 billion—the equivalent in Philippine currency—needed to build the urban mining facility.

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PLASTIC, an end-user: Hyundai recycled cars sorted and packed at a recycling center.

Making money out of 'urban mining'

GERMANY leads the way in waste management.

Text and Photos by Doris C. Dumlao

BERLIN—HEAPS OF STINKY GARBAGE were hauled in a big warehouse in the eastern suburb of Blakfelde! One same way raw materials were brought to a factory.

What came out half an hour later were compact cubes of accurately sorted materials—plastic, tin, aluminum and wire packs—which can be sold for recycling at a good price.

"Urban mining," Europe's fancy name for this process of making money out of garbage using sophisticated machinery, is a booming business in this wealthy nation with very little natural resources.

About 130 companies scoop up what households and companies throw out as rubbish across Germany to extract valuable materials.

Their waste management reports usually integrate collection, segregation, recycling and trading of recycled goods in a seamless business circle, but some functions like garbage collection are sometimes outsourced to smaller players.

Total industry turnover from this garbage business is estimated at about 50 billion euros a year.

Medium-sized ALBA Berlin's MBT system, which has invested 35 million euros to build Germany's newest and most modern garbage sorting plant here in October 2005, is part of this vibrant industry.

This Mahlsdorf facility handles garbage collected from Berlin's "yellow" trash bins—or those meant for light empty packaging made from plastics, tin, aluminum and composite materials.

MARKEL B2-1

Hyundai Earns Largest Opinion Improvement

AutoPacific, an automotive consulting firm, reported Hyundai had the largest opinion improvement among nine manufacturer in its initial wave of Image and Consideration Tracking Research.

AutoPacific analysts stated, "The surprise (or not so surprising) winner of the most improved manufacturer was Hyundai Motor Corporation. Consumers surrounding the performance of Hyundai gave Hyundai credit for substantially improved styling, newly-found high durability/quality/reliability, a strong value message and a great warranty program. Positive comments outweighed negative comments by about four to one."

Nine manufacturers were evaluated including, General Motors, Toyota, Ford Motor, Chrysler Group, Nissan, Honda, Hyundai, VW, and BMW. 1,254 panelists responded to an Internet survey concerning their opinion of automakers in the USA. The key question in the survey was whether the respondent's opinion of a manufacturer had changed since this time last year. Over 5,000 verbatim comments were collected in relation to opinion and attitude toward various aspects of a manufacturer's image.

"In 2006, JD Power and Associates ranked Hyundai as the highest non-premium nameplate in its Initial Quality Study and BusinessWeek named us a top '100 Global Brand' for 2006," said John Krafcik, vice president of Strategic Planning and Product Development, Hyundai Motor America. "AutoPacific's report that Hyundai now has the largest opinion improvement over nine competing manufacturers is another example of how Hyundai is continuing to improve brand image through its commitment to quality and value."

BUSINESS Monday

When farmers become traders

PAPAYA from Aurora

ONION and handmade basket from North Phoenix Ilalo

VINEGAR from Aurora

Text and photos by Tarsenio Dimpas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE 186 agrarian reform cooperatives (ARCs) in Central Luzon province has stuck.

Aurora put on sale pineapple, papaya, banana, jasko (items for salad), coco jam, asbestos banana and mats, subdued (ginger powder) and grounded coffee beans.

Bataan sold cashew nuts, dried and smoked fish, preserved fruits, tambo (soft bamboo), camote, tinsuelo, cotton and pepper.

Bulacan showcased its chicharon, pastillas, biscuits, pillows, bags, vinegar and fish sauce.

North Nueva Ecija sold dairy products, cannon muscillo, chicharon, cashew, chili paste, sweet corn, garlic, squash, vegetable products, charcoal, salted eggs and tamarind while South Nueva Ecija

SUGARCANE vinegar, peanut butter and pickled cucumbers from Tarlac

put on display metal molds, cactus baskets, slippers, native rattan, virgin oil and papaya soap.

Pampanga made bride sale of peanuts, preserved vegetables, Japanese corn, kinilaw (the fermented fish) and salted eggs while Tarlac featured its best selling Victoria's peanut butter alongside native brooms, dry chorizo bilonan, pickled papaya, mushroom, sweet potato, muscovado and vigan.

Zambales packed its stall with danggit, fresh mangoes, lagoong (fish paste) and other fish sauces, strawberry, eggplant, sesame seeds, pili nuts, avocado and salted salt.

What makes these products "extraordinarily different" is that these are grown and made by agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) either as individuals or cooperatives, according to Ms. Estrellajustin, regional coordinator of the DAR's marketing assistance program.

As they try to make productive

On lands they got through the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), the ARBs also find ways to market their products or diversify what products from out of the bounties of the land, Magsalin said.

Over 300 kinds of by-products are made by ARBs, most of them women, she said. Some of them are exported yet.

The "setback" is in their not being able to get safety certification yet from the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFD) to export, she said.

Still, the "farmer entrepreneurs" model has been the track that they have been taking under the DAR this end.

There are 317,461 ARBs in Central Luzon who received 410,112 hectares distributed through the CARP since 1988.

However, only 121,479 of them lived in the region's 170 agrarian reform communities (ARCs) where government agencies had concentrated its

COFFEE, smoked and salted fish from Bataan

FISH SAUCE and iodized salt from Zambales

infrastructure and economic development assistance over the last five years through the Kapit-bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (Balikat) program.

That means that not all ARBs have been reached and provided access to loans to sustain new enterprises.

Most ARCs are still within the range where their roads for farm-to-market roads, bridges, irrigation facilities and solar dryers are being met, DAR reports showed.

COFFEE from Aurora

For instance, infrastructure projects continued to get the bulk of expenses, amounting to P599 million last year.

Microfinancing, on the other hand, received P35.16 million for 20 projects for the same period.

The Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Trade and Industry are helping the DAR in the farmers' ventures.

These agencies, however, lacked funds like the DAR.

Agrarian reform secretary Nasser Pangandaman said there is so much to do. "This is the next venture of CARP—to make the farmers' products competitive and the farmers becoming proud entrepreneurs in the coming

VIEW MAP/PAGE B4-2

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Goats, cattle, pigs may go the way of the dodo

By Amy R. Remo

THE GIANT PANDA, SEA TURtle and koala are not the only animals facing extinction.

Some breeds of goats, cattle and pigs are, too.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, there is a real possibility that the rapid spread of large-scale industrial livestock production could lead to the extinction of certain animal breeds.

A report presented recently to the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture said that this kind of production system, which is geared to the development of commercial breeds, poses the biggest threat to the diversity of farm animal breeds.

Industrial livestock production refers to intensive breeding of specialized animals such as poultry, cattle and pigs to supply uniform products such as meat, milk and eggs, according to the "The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture" report.

"One livestock breed a month has become extinct over the past seven years and time is running out for one-fifth of the world's breeds of cattle, goats, pigs, horses and poultry," said FAO assistant director general Alexander Müller in his address to the commission.

According to Müller, there is a need to increase the resilience of food supply, given the surging global demand for meat, milk and eggs.

"In the next 40 years, the world's population will rise from today's 6.2 billion to 9 billion, with all the growth occurring in the developing countries," Müller added.

Large-scale production threatens diversity of farm animal breeds, FAO says

Wake-up call

He said that the report, the first global overview of livestock biodiversity and of the capacity available countries to manage their animal genetic resources, was a "wake-up call" to the world.

"Effective management of animal genetic diversity is essential to global food security, sustainable development and the livelihoods of millions of people," said Irene Hoffmann, chief of FAO's Animal Production Service.

In the Philippines, BAI has coordinated a study called "Livestock Industrialization, Trade and Social Health Environment Impacts in Developing Countries," which concentrated on the forces responsible for the eroding use of livestock production.

The objective was to identify ways for developing countries to improve their livestock sectors, while avoiding the cost spiral increase in production.

This is important because livestock is one of the few agricultural products that small farmers can produce, the BAI said.

If they cannot compete in this area, their prospects of making good in farming are bleak, FAO added.

Through its Livestock, Environment and Development program (LEAD), FAO assessed the conditions of the country's livestock sector and the social, health and environmental concerns facing meat producers and consumers in developing countries.

LEAD is a multi-institutional program formed to promote ecologically sustainable livestock production systems.

The study showed that in the Philippines, livestock are found more in both small and large farms, but that the output of the small farms is increasing.

However, evidence reviewed suggests that large-scale intensive production, which can supply more rapidly, taking market share away from the small farmers.

FAO said the question is not now whether large-scale livestock production would out-compete smallholder producers, but when and economically generate their exit from the sector.

Breed diversity loss

According to FAO, the figures cited may only be a partial picture of the genetic erosion taking place as breed associations are reluctant to report parts of the world.

The problem is further compounded by the ease with which genetic material can now be moved around the world, said the report which drew information from 169 countries.

It added that the developing world was seen as the hotspot of breed diversity loss in the 21st century.

FAO noted that the crowding out of local breeds was not to advocate unless special provisions are made for their sustainable use and conservation.

MASSIVE production of vast numbers of livestock may lead to the extinction of others.

Urgent recommendations

The FAO report has recommended that developing countries adopt effective management of animal genetic diversity, which requires having well-trained personnel and adequate technical facilities.

According to the report, 40 percent of the world's countries have no national conservation programs while 63 percent said they have no in vitro programs for the conservation of embryos, semen or other genetic material.

Similarly, in many countries, structural breeding programs are absent or ineffective.

"Support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition to characterize, conserve and utilize their livestock breeds will be necessary," said Clive Stannard of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

"Frameworks for wider access to animal genetic resources, and to equitable sharing of the benefits derived from them, need to be put in place, both at national and international levels," he added.

MOVEMENTS

Kodak names country GM

EKSTAL COMPANY KODAK PHILIPPINES has appointed entertainment imaging veteran Ethan de Ocampo as the new Kodak country general manager.

De Ocampo will oversee Kodak's core business portfolio in the Philippines and Asean countries, which is geared toward electronic commercials, identifying agencies and follow-up solutions business.

"I am really excited to lead Kodak Philippines. We are looking at further growing the business in the areas of graphics, commercial films, consumer digital capture, and consumer value processing solutions. We have the products, the people, the strategy and the structure to sustain Kodak's position as a digital leader," explained Reyes.

Prior to joining Kodak, Reyes had seven years of managerial experience, having served the Asiapacific Broadcasting Union as Sales Director and Programmes Officer. He was also a regional sales manager and account manager respectively.

Reyes is a graduate of De La Salle University with a degree in Management of Financial Institutions.

Eastman Kodak Co. has been operating in the Philippines for over 40 years.

Kodak customers like AmeriNet has their own stories to tell about the camera category, backed by the name of Kodak. "Kodak Express is not only a favorite Kodak has likewise remained a market leader in conventional processing."

Leo Burnett has new GM

LEO BURNETT, one of the world's largest advertising and marketing agency networks and a wholly owned subsidiary of Publicis Groupe, has promoted Raymund Bautista from deputy managing director for its managing director of Leo Burnett Manila.

"I look forward to this challenge to further strengthen Leo Burnett's position in the market," said Bautista upon his promotion. "By providing our clients with breakthrough creative and holistic communications, I am confident that we can succeed to be their today's changing marketing communications landscape."

His previous role in the agency's deputy managing director saw the Bell 19 monthly awards which ended with the titles of The Leo Burnett Philippines Group Encore made up of Manila 143 Michael Leonardino, Richard Gross, Boyd Graves and Ichiro Betsuyaku engineering the future of the Leo Burnett, Mr. Worldwide and Background operations within four-week program.

"During that time, Asiantis had power to be a forward leader with driving business decisions and a growing reputation for building client business and relationships," Gutierrez said. "Here is the example of the professionalism, dedication and hardworking ethos which are ensured within the Leo Burnett world. Here, you unite passions, think out the to-to-dosings with others, your and opportunities."

Metrobank has new group head

METROPOLITAN Bank & Trust Co. (Metrobank) has appointed its chief Antonio A. Tarriniego, 58, as the new head of the bank's treasury group.

Tarriniego has over 33 years of financial market experience, especially in the fields of foreign exchange, fixed income, treasury marketing and derivatives.

Tarriniego earned his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering degree from the University of the Philippines. He also where he was a Rockwell Science Technology Scholarship recipient.

He also attended studies in Pamantasan College, Oxford University, IBI and in INSEAD, France, and completed the Chartered Financial Analyst Program in Virginia, USA.

Tarriniego is a member of the Bankers Association of the Philippines Open Market Committee and of various corporate committees for AIG Philippines. He also served as two-time director of the Money Market Association (MART).

Migrant makes good in Davao transport sector

By Jocelle M. Badilla
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—AT 15 THE UNSUPPORTED transport king in the city.

Ronald Sangayan, 34, became the first businessman in the city, who gone. Had to leave his hometown in 1991.

Sangayan is a descendant of a Chinese-Filipino family that migrated to Davao City from Zamboanga City in the 1960s.

His family ventured into the copra business.

"We are all from Zamboanga City. Actually my dad grew up in a small island called Basik. After the war they transferred to Zamboanga. We were all born in Zamboanga," he said.

Sangayan said his parents knew that the copra industry would eventually die and advised their children to look for other opportunities.

He said his frequent travels to other cities in the country made him appreciate the idea of Davao as a potential market for real business in the early '90s.

"I've been going to Cebu with my buyahan. There I saw how the real business is headed to Cebu due to the influx of tourists," he said.

"When now I ride a plane, I see many small subdivisions in Davao but it's in the outskirts. Malapong subdivision, the Skyline in Tandang Sora[illegible] I found out that most of these subdivision are mid-to-low income residents," he told the reporter.

He said 90 percent of people living in subdivisions outside the city proper do not own cars.

"They have to ride public transport. The only thing I can get them to relate to is to introduce a phase-4-car financing and we become the pioneer in that business here in Davao," Sangayan said.

Ronald Sangayan

Sangayan started his phase-4-car business by purchasing 200 units of his vehicle in 1993.

His company, Davao Holiday Transport Services Inc., now holds about 600 units of non-airconditioned vehicles and a number of air-conditioned units.

From taxis to buses

Sangayan said his segment is now two steps into the transportation business aside from jueteneo 60 units of buses. His buses served to serve the Davao City-Kidapawan City route, which was previously serviced alone by the Yellow Bus Co.

Sangayan did not stop with his growing land transportation venture.

Later he went into the inter-island ferry business.

"I came from Zamboanga. I love the sea. Being ilaut ako. I usually stay at the pier with our Muslim brothers. We swim and we dive together," he said.

Sangayan said the idea of an inter-island ferry business came to him when he frequented a piece of land for his first ferry boat.

He said Samal, which is only about 20 minutes by boat from this city is even bigger in area compared to Mactan Island in Cebu.

"If you compare Samal to Mactan, Samal is even much nicer. Then I said to myself, Samal can become another Cebu," he said.

Helping Samal

So he planned on putting up a ferry service that would shuttle tourists from Davao to Samal.

"I planned everything, putting up a ferry from to five years, ramp to make[illegible]. But it's like chicken and egg. I have to gamble. I put up the ferry business because I saw the potential of Samal Island," he said.

Recently, he has made moves to service the Davao City-Samal route.

The route is of course contested by his ferry service.

"It would be easy for people to ride the buses, pay P20 and today no to ride on ferry. They don't have to pay for the ferry service," he said.

Sangayan said by subsidizing the ferry fare, he believes he was helping the city of Samal.

"People residing in Samal come to Davao by work. If they reside in Davao, they pay for boarding houses or apartments, pay for their food. With the buses and the ferries it would be easy for them to go home everyday," he said.

Sangayan said the availability of transport between Samal and Davao also helped the former grow in population.

"I remember only I helped Samal a lot. From about 15,000 to 20,000 population, now it's 100,000 so. People are starting to go there," he said.

So what were the ink tips for the successful transport business?

The seemingly unstoppable Sangayan went into the entertainment business by putting up The Venue in 2000.

"I used to play in a band when I was in high school. I love music. Thanks to my fiancée studying night life. If you're going to open a bar or a restaurant, you have a venue for entertainment," he said.

"That is why I put up The Venue, venue stands for the venue itself," he said.

The entertainment business indeed flourished.

"When I put up the taxi business, they ask who would probably ride it. But look at what happened, other businessmen put up their own taxi business. So when I put up The Venue, others put up theirs, too," he said.

Competition welcome

Sangayan said he was never afraid of the competition.

Aside from the transportation and entertainment businesses, Sangayan also ventured into the tips and tuition business.

"My wife Gene is a dentist but she helped me with other businesses. She handles the management of the Holiday Spa and Gym and He newly opened culinary school, the Center for Asian Culinary Studies here in Davao," Sangayan said.

Today, Sangayan is developing a Mactan resort in Samal.

The 109-room resort will have all the amenities similar to any first-class hotels.

"This is going to be the first Ilonggo hotel and resort and even booking[illegible] in Samal," he said.

Sangayan, who took up Industrial Engineering at Ateneo de Davao[illegible] in Manila, stopped schooling after second[illegible].

"I was one of the artistic dot. When mother[illegible] was announced, I have to come back to Davao that is why I wasn't able to finish college. Bored na lang to[illegible], enjoy pero OK naman," he said.

Sangayan said in any business there are ups and downs but if one wants to succeed, perseverance is one of the key ingredients.

"I was from[illegible]. I borrow money from relatives. That's what happened when I ventured into the ferry business. Hulugan nalang ko sa kanila. I did not was ready because I know it will pay off. Samal is only 25 minutes away from the city. It's the only place that is very near to the city, white sand and it is very peaceful," he said.

He said in putting up a business, observation is also important.

"But the most important thing, he said, is "Be original."

"Look for businesses or work or[illegible] You don't need huge funds to start your business. You just have to be creative, you have to be very observant because that is where you come about different things in life, and when you put up a business, you have to think of others you will be able to help," he told the[illegible].

QUEUE of Holiday Taxi Fleet in a mall. Holiday Taxi is Sangayan's first business in Davao City.

When farmers become traders

From page B3

years," he said.

That, however, depends on Congress' s give CARP an extension after the program's termination in 2009.

A 2005 study of the program, however, noted that "from a financial perspective, the glaring lesson learned is that the [CARP] has not been a priority of all branches of government."

While the first 10 years of the CARP required P230 billion, it only got P111 billion between 1987 and 2006.

"While the construction of [infrastructure], mainly bridges and roads, had improved access to central business districts, other interventions would have made more impact in terms of productivity and income," said the study.

Producing employers, not just employees

By Maurice Malanet
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—*When* A touch of the thousands of graduates each year want to set up their own companies or industries and recruit fresh from college colleagues, instead of lining up at the doors of companies to apply for jobs?

This is the goal of a business management training program, which a telecommunications firm and a private foundation have started in the Benguet State University (BSU).

"While making employees after graduation is good, being an entrepreneur is much better because an entrepreneur is also an employer," Globe Telecom public relations head Anne Campos said in a briefing here, during which he and other colleagues discussed the rationale and goals of Wiwag.

Wiwag or Winds@Work Wealthy, which is "Business World" in German, is a five-day business management training program based on a computer-aided simulation game.

Originally from Switzerland, Wiwag has become part of the curricula of a number of Asian and European high schools.

Through the program, 21 selected students from the different colleges of BSU on June 18-22 played roles of set-aside managing a company, giving them a feel of how the finance, production, marketing and human resources departments of a company function and inter-relate.

Running a company

Since colleges and universities such as BSU are chosen for the Wiwag session to help enhance their agri-business courses, according to the sponsors.

"During my time, business management students receive income as a company would normally be assigned to comply projects collect the top executives and investors," says Elaine Maga, executive director of the Education for Youth Enterprise Foundation or EYE, and one of the volunteer trainers of the Wiwag course, "But through Wiwag, students would actually run their own companies through computer-assisted simulation games."

EYE is Globe's co-sponsor of the Wiwag course, which the telecommunications company is undertaking under Globe Bridges Com—Globe's corporate social responsibility program.

Divided into four teams, with each team creating its own "firm," the four "companies" during the Wiwag course would create their own product and, through simulation games, devise ways to promote the product.

"In the students are trained on how to make their own price to boom, market and package their products, analyze economic trends, make forecasts, and do other simulation games that approximate the real activities of corporations," says Maga.

Hands-on training

Since they also have to report daily on whether their "companies" are gaining profit or losing money, the students are actually learning hands on the ABCs of cash flow, bookkeeping and accounting, says Richard Chua, who heads Globe's North Luzon consumer business group.

The first in the country, the Wiwag program seeks to augment classroom instructions at the Benguet State University, says Campos, himself a graduate of the university and a current trustee of public school.

The 25 students who took the Wiwag course are also expected to have a comparative edge over other students.

One reason is that they can opt to start their own business or industry after graduation and immediately earn income and possibly employ other people instead of being idle for months or even years while looking for jobs, as is the case for legions of graduates, says Campos.

"Through the Wiwag program, we hope to expand the choices of students after they graduate," he says.

BSU president, Dr. Rogelio Cabling, welcomed the Wiwag course. "The idea of producing graduates who become employers instead of simple employees, is in tune with our land-based program," he says.

BSU's business school courses include Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness, BS Entrepreneurship, and BS Agricultural Technology.

Under the industrial program, students can opt to take two-year diploma courses, through which they are trained to immediately start businesses immediately afterwards, says Cabling.

But while engaging in business, graduates of two-year diploma courses can pursue themselves to finally earn their full degrees.

"It's really high time that students are taught to think business," says Cabling. "With the proper skills and training, graduates can start any business that can employ other people and serve their communities. They themselves can start as a school, for example."

High-caliber trainers

There are 55 volunteer trainers and instructors, who take turns facilitating the Wiwag course, and they are not just experts in their own fields but accomplished entrepreneurs themselves, says Maga.

She says many volunteers are retired entrepreneurs, some of whom were lured in Fortune magazine to assist Asia's wealthiest.

The 25 BSU students were done fortunate to be tutored by volunteers who could discuss business management theories with authority because they could validate and enhance these with their own experiences, says Maga.

In return, the students are expected not only to apply what they learned from the Wiwag session but to also spread the lessons they have acquired and possibly become trainers themselves, says Jeffrey Tacayan, Globe community relations head.

FUTURE entrepreneurs at Benguet State University

GLOBE'S Anne Campos

BSU head Dr. Rogelio Cabling

EYE's Elaine Maga

Elderly couple earns bucks the integrated way

Text and photos
By Hazel P. Pilla
Inquirer Visayas

PASIG CITY, ILOILO—A OneAnd-a-half hectare farm may not be big but, if farmed the integrated way to can earn the owner big bucks and the respect of farmers and the government as well.

This was what Gerardo "Nolting" Dalisdal, 72, found out after he decided to quit many of his old ways of farming and apply what he had learned from seminars, lectures and from an early morning radio program on farming.

Dalisdal's farm in Barangay Talongonan, about 5 kilometers away from Pasi City is planted to vegetables, fruit trees, rootcrops, bananas, and tree.

A small fishpond at one end farms with tilapia and catfish, at the other end stands a piggery and cows area for two carabaos.

His 31-year-old wife, Florante, is still spry and helps in farm chores. She also joins her husband in attending agriculture seminars.

The Dalisdal couple calls their farming style "ubuh sa tanum," but the provincial government of Iloilo officially calls this the Integrated Silvifishpasture Production and has recognized Dalisdal as "Outstanding Achiever in Agriculture for 2004-2005."

A farmer for 22 years, Dalisdal said he did not go through anything recognized for his farming as it was Leopoldo Aguinaldo, a fruit agriculturist, who discovered his integrated farming and nominated him to the contest.

A cut above the rest

At early risers with no vices, the hardworking Dalisdal is a cut above other Iloilo farmers because he not only uses integrated farming but also uses both organic and synthetic fertilizers mixed with biofad pesticides to maximize his production.

Radio program

Dalisdal said much of his ideas came from Mario Pelaro, an agriculturist heard in Negros Occidental, who hosts a 6 a.m. radio program. He also conducts seminars on agriculture, some of which Dalisdal had attended.

"Commercial pesticides, aside from being expensive, are bad for the health," said Dalisdal.

Dalisdal's first cropping (both his half-hectare rice paddy was 80 sacks, selling per sack at P500 as the lowest price.

As for the 10 pigs he raises, Dalisdal says more points in the comparison for feeding them hanghong that he grows himself and not commercial.

The ideal provincial government, he says, time as an "agri-culture advisory," said Dalisdal's annual income has exceeded P250,000.

"It takes a long time for farmers to adapt or new knowledge and technologies because they want to see the results first. They don't want to gamble on time," said Dr. Edelmaer T. Toledo, administrative officer of the provincial government.

THE INCORNALIT farm benefits from integrated farming practices.

Dalisdal sums up the whole farming experience and the logic of it all, thus: "Of what use is all that knowledge if you're lazy?"

RP's 'Professor Butterfly'

Pronounce Bit-it

20 years, the butterfly species Troides magellanis, Helenines plateaspe and Polyura schreiberi have not been seen in the wilderness of Mindanao.

In a study of Labay's findings, a former MSC president, Dr. Rodrigo Bustamante Jr., suggested that any research about butterflies must include the breeding aspect of the insect and the conservation of its host plants.

To provide the basis for sustaining diversity of the butterfly species, Labay started other researches which would identify the larval host plants of the butterflies of the various species studied.

There is, however, a need to convince identifying the species of the butterflies and their host plants, according to Labay, the greatest of the butterfly industry is the province.

Andam reasoned that in the butterfly industry, sustainability is a function of diversity of butterfly species and their host plants.

To this, Labay is happy to note that there are now more than 200 commercial growers or farmers of butterflies in the province.

LABAY studies a leaf of a host plant for caterpillars.

Marinduque's butterfly industry is estimated at P100 million annually with Labay's scientific researches and studies as the foremost opportunities arising from engaging in butterfly farming could floating luminously to its growth.

In 1995, he proposed to Marinduque Butterfly Research and Livelihood-related Training Program, a continuing program of MSC for farmers, out-of-school youths, rural workers and displaced workers, received a P2-million grant from the counterside development fund of the late Sen. Raul Roco.

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) and World Bank gave P500,000 to fund his Community-based Training and Enterprise Development project entitled "Area sa Paru-Paro" (Money from Butterflies).

The project is a continuing program to live with the butterfly research and livelihood program of boats, which deals on butterfly products' processing and packaging.

Labay said his researches helped increase the income of the farmers by examining butterfly farming as a hobby and as an income-generating activity.

His programs were also able to involve women and children in a beneficial income-generating activity which is not labor-intensive.

Further, his researches led to the protection of the species in the wild, both the butterflies and their host plants, to ensure this type of livelihood.

"More farmers are now encouraged to plant their host plants from patches of gardens in their backyards to inter-cropping crops between coconut and fruit trees thus maximizing land use for agriculture," added Labay.

Future plans

In the future, Labay plans to establish six of the butterflies of Marinduque by enlarge in terms of family such as Papilionidae, i.e. cinidae, Nymphalidae, Hesperidae and Pieridae.

He is also contemplating including in his book the butterflies' various species and their biodiversity such as its respective larval host plants, insects' host plants, pests and diseases and the butterflies' natural enemies that naturally control butterfly densities and ecosystem of a butterfly research center which could sustain the growth of the butterfly industry in the province.

Andam said Labay's efforts in research and in educating the public on local folks deserve recognition.

"Prof. Labay's achievement in research in our class deserves an encouragement by the faculty members of higher educational institutions in the country, especially the state universities and colleges, to ensure change for further empowerment and development," Andam added.

SOME of his framed butterflies

BUSINESS Monday

RP's *'Professor Butterfly'*

PROF. PANORITO Labay prepares sugar syrup for the butterflies.

Text and Photos
by Gerald Gino B. Quindoy
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BOAC, MARINDUQUE—IF THE retreat of his research marks about butterflies and their impact on the community will be the focus, Prof. Panoncito Labay, a Ford Fellow and a professor at the Marinduque State College, will surely be distinguished as the country's "Professor Butterfly."

According to Dr. Carlos Arcadio, MSC's vice president for research and extension, he does not know of anyone in the Philippine academic or research community who has conducted numerous and diverse studies about butterfly the way Prof. Labay has done them.

Born and raised in the mountainside of the province, Labay developed a deep interest in nature, most especially about butterflies, after having lived with the farmers and foragers in the forested areas of the province.

Labay, 49, said he started and slept in the hammer "hanudgan" in barrio and learned from them.

"My frequent interaction with them triggered my interest in doing studies about butterflies," said Labay.

It was his connections with the Lumads of Boac and the Iraynons of Buenavista, however, which further aroused his enthusiasm to engage in butterfly research.

The Lumads and the Iraynons are considered the forest-dwellers of Southern Tagalog in Marinduque.

"I joined them in collecting butterfly species and host plants in the wild. I learned from them, especially in identifying the butterflies' habitat and host plants. They encouraged me to do more research on butterflies and say, pursue me in my undertakings," said Labay.

LABAY have been interested in butterflies since he was a teenager.

It was in 1995 when Labay started a research project on butterflies even without available funds.

What he did was to organize the Bantigue ng Kalikasan, MSC's first environmental organization, which was composed mainly of students who helped him gather data needed for the project.

In his initial study, Labay was able to identify 158 species of butterflies that could be found in the province.

He said species belong to 71 genera and 18 families in the lepidopteran classification.

Labay noted in his research that there were already three butterfly species deemed endangered in the province.

He found out that for the past

BPI B4

Pru Life UK, the local subsidiary of Britain's financial services giant Prudential plc, introduces yet another new breakthrough in the Philippine insurance industry.

The Company, commended for introducing Pru Link in the Philippines five years ago, is setting a new standard in the local insurance landscape with its ProLink Protection Plan or PPPlus.

The new product is an investment-linked life insurance that provides for hospitalization, critical illness and accident protection.

PPPlus, launched on June 1 at 1 Esplanade at SM Complex in Pasay City, affords executed medical care, pays daily hospital income for up to 360 days and covers 36 critical illnesses.

Company executives lauded PPPlus for encompassing more bases and providing total protection to discerning customers.

Pru Life UK President and Chief Executive Nobi Majmudar and Vice President for Marketing Investe Bello Tiongco said PPPlus is the Company's bold response to the increasing demand of people for hospitalization and critical illness benefits to their life insurance policies.

"I have rarely ever known a market where the people are not under-insured. The Philippines is no exception," Mr. Majmudar said, adding that PPPlus "is very flexible".

Mr. Majmudar also noted that the new investment-linked life insurance product "provides comprehensive insurance protection to customers in a manner that meets their changing needs throughout their lifetime. I am confident that this product will reconfirm our position as a market leader in product innovation."

Mr. Tiongco agreed, noting that the introduction of PPPlus reinforces the Company's leadership in the Philippine life insurance industry.

"Since its entry 10 years ago, Pru Life UK has always been a product innovator in the local life insurance scene. We changed the life playing field with our introduction of investment-linked life policies, which served to expand the industry as a whole. The consumers can count on Pru Life UK to continue this tradition of truly responsive and superior products. After all, this Company has pledged to always listen to and always understand its customers' needs," Mr. Tiongco said.

All in the Mix

Goldilocks Enabled through PLDT Shops Work Technology

For Goldilocks Marketing Director, Pinky Yao, "PLDT's Shops.Work ensures that consumer feedback reaches the head office in a timely manner—no matter how far the branch may be."

Shops.Work allows Goldilocks franchisees to connect to the company's head office in a timely manner.

Ever before two years and their donut-to-be whipped up their first cake in 1966, the brand they named —Goldilocks—has well earned its way to becoming an emotional fixture in the Filipino psyche. Beyond their sweet love for food and flavor that won over millions of loyal customers, the spirit of innovation in products and services proved to be the true engine for business growth. Today, they continue to apply that same innovative zeal as they confidently invest in PLDT Business Solutions.

Now entering their 5th decade in business, the centre look back at every special milestones. From just 10 employees and two display stands, Goldilocks has grown to 126 stores—both here and abroad—with approximately 4,000 loyal employees. Cumulatively, it serves 1 million customers every year, with over 5 million pieces of its best seller.

According to Goldilocks Marketing Director Pinky Yao, there are four main ingredients for the record-setting success of Goldilocks: Brand Equity, Passion for Innovation and Quality, Stewardship of Store Locations, and Hands-on Management. "This is what we affectionately call the 'Goldilocks Winning Recipe'," the further enthused. A clearly defined brand image of strength/richness, an enviably successful distribution strategy of empowered franchisees, and a directly involved management of Goldilocks as revolutionary manufacturer and retailer all certainly helped towards brand preeminence.

But perhaps it is Passion for Innovation and Quality that allows Goldilocks to remain current, and thus maintain its leadership position in its industry. Every year the brand does countless and effectiveness in bring customers products and services in its evolving market. Their Go Lite product line introduced low-calorie sugar-free desserts for health conscious consumers. In their food shops, their pioneering Pinoyshi line features 8 new, ready-to-cook favorites such as siliwang hamgo, pork barbeque, siopao and hamgong shanghai. Latest offerings from Pinoyshi are ready-to-eat pouches of dinuguan, laswa, pakoy, sopas and laing that can be easily heated in a pot of hot water and served. The company's HEALTHnguan bread line has received tremendous acclaim, not just from consumers, but the Department of Health (DOH) as well. The brownie line, nine Trans Fatty Acid breads contain no cholesterol and are Vitamin A-fortified, an inspiring 6 to be the first Filipino brand to be awarded the "Sangkap Pinoy" seal by the DOST.

And in the new age of business enabled through technology, Goldilocks has put PLDT into their winning mix.

"We are very excited to have PLDT Business Solutions as our trusted ICT solutions partner because it involves the synergy between two market leaders," says Ms. Yao. "Both companies are deeply interlaced with the lives of Filipinos and have the same commitment to service excellence and product superiority."

The New Goldilocks IT Advantage

The same spirit of innovation has powered the smooth way Goldilocks runs its business. With PLDT Shops.Work, operations are monitored and reported to central headquarters. Shops.Work is a network solution offered by the PLDT Group, which enables businesses to monitor all their transactions electronically and in real-time. This allows retail and franchise store owners to connect to the databases of any of their branches for accurate sales and inventory reports. With IP-enabled surveillance and security devices, management gets a bird's-eye view of the performance of shop floors and the assembly line in a means of constantly updated data.

"The most important criterion for employing new technology is how it will benefit our customers," Ms. Yao says. "PLDT's Shops.Work ensures that consumer feedback reaches the head office in a timely manner—no matter how far the branch may be. Data can now be uploaded instead of encoded manually. This gives our in-store staff more time to focus on addressing our customers' needs. Better communication means better service," the marketing director pointed out.

With all this special business-oriented solutions delivered briskly right to their fingertips, Goldilocks is making the best use of the leading PLDT Business Solutions technology. It's the IT advantage that it knows will be a key factor to continue being an integral part (and top) of the Filipino consumer's mind.

"At Goldilocks, we are constantly seeking ways to connect with our customers," Ms. Yao underscored. "More than a 'branch-to-head office' linkage, we look at it more as a 'customer-to-head office linkage'. This is what appeals to us and makes the technology exciting."

LIFESTYLE

SCENE from "Barnday at Gabi," a children's play based on the award-winning book by Rene Villanueva

The Third Virgin Labfest, unreeling June 28-July 8 at the CCP, seeks to showcase fresh, daring, unconventional plays

Festival of fearless virgins

By Gilda Cadiz

RODY VERA IS RUNNING around like a man possessed these days. There are a thousand details to attend to, photo shoots to guide, rehearsals to check out and showdowns to finalize as he and the Writers' Bloc together with the Cultural Center of the Philippines and its resident theater company Tanghalang Pilipino, gear up for the Virgin Labfest, now on its third year.

The Labfest is a modest festival of "untried, untested, unpublished and unstaged" plays that are culled from the twice monthly original readings that members of the Writers' Bloc hold among themselves. In lieu cue to, curtailment offered 15 new one-act plays; this year, the repertoire has expanded, with 18 plays (including three from visiting foreign playwrights) as well as staged readings and platform events, all to be held in various venues at the CCP.

The festival will unfold in five sets consisting of three plays each, plus one indepen, thirdly produced trilogy—each set clustered loosely around a theme. Vera and Dennis Marasigan, Tanghalang Pilipino's artistic director, initiated the festival. Vera says his criteria for inclusion are quite basic.

"One, the play must run for a maximum of 40 minutes. Anything beyond that will disrupt the running time of the other two plays. Two, in that span of time, nakumpleto ba ang istorya, nabuhol ba ang sama? Ah ara ba? And third, we're looking for something that's not been done yet. Ibang-iba sa drama noon ano, na nagsasa ito ayang kabaho?"

He cites as an example George Mel Rabelas's "Mr Shift is an OCW" part of the cast set of plays "SK and K. Rabelas Hindi Pang-Isip Bata" that's scheduled to run for four performances on June 30 and July 1-4.

"It has interesting characters, about Undocumented and dancers. It has the usual elements, but George has a different take on it. Ang feeling nga niya drama ang play niya, but I think it's comedy ano?"

Ambiguous, experimental

Dramatic works that admit ambiguity, require interaction, ensure open-ended approach to theater fascinate Vera. It's what led him and other members of the Writers' Bloc to stage Labfest in the first place.

"Our original vision for the Labfest is really limited just for the fun of it. Isa sa mga dahilan kaya ginagawa ng young playwrights ang Labfest, yung mga experimental type theater productions. Minsan sila ang daring to go out of the box, and what rules is the fear of the market."

Members of the Writers' Bloc get their goodness, inspiration and lessons in the craft from senior members like Vera who are established names in theater, with successfully staged works and the requisite awards to show for them. These luminaries also include Rene Villanueva and Nicolas Pichay, whose new works were on exhibit in last year's Labfest.

The every-other Sunday readings, now of ten held in Vinzo de Jesus' home, is open to

FESTIVAL C2

PLAYWRIGHT-ACTOR Rody Vera

You can have it all in just 4 days!

KIDDIE ACADEMY

Wilfrido Cruz-Tupaz

Retro Pinoy band conquers Hawaii

By Ariuette C. Hila
Correspondent

THEY CAME, THEY played. They conquered. Indeed, the Bloodhelles, a bunch of youngsters in rain, rock Hawaii by storm, literally holding in the palm of their hands Filipino-Americans who listened and danced to their music.

The session was the Freedom Ball, a dinner dance affair held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel's Coral Ballroom last June 10. The ball was part of the week-long Freedom Fest held to commemorate with the 110th anniversary celebration of Philippine Independence.

Making up the band, all of whom do vocals, are Ronald Ilustre "Bunky" Collado, drums; Joshua Luis Antonio "Louie" Pons, lead guitar; Jose "Pepe" Lazaro II, guitar; Gregorio "JJ" Lorenzo Jr., guitar/harmonica; and Lahan Emmanuel "Lahan" Villa, keyboard. They are all alumni of La Salle Greenhills who take the name of the Bloodhounds, and play "darkly inspired" superbly which they call "happy music."

The Consulate General of the Philippines, headed by Consul General Mitzi N. Bandilla, together with the Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawaii, chaired by Eddie Ilustre Jr., spearheaded Freedom Ball, with Ian Gaza overseeing it.

Bandilla said the concert was a convenient and joyful moment for the Filipino-Americans.

The ball was a travel experience for the 'life that one the size of cash and mill, a time when every one talked of peace, love, freedom and happiness. Gone recalled.

This year's celebration was a departure from the usual gatherings of dinners and speeches. Bandilla said the Freedom Ball was inspired by the sounds of the retro band. Apart from the festival and social functions associated with the '60s, he said the Freedom Ball "connotes freedom from colonization of Spain and the US."

Thus, according to him, "the '60s were more progressive" for it is the time the Philippines was, in fact, "the second most progressive country in Asia after Japan." The '60s were "a decade of spirit, of freedom, of expressions, of peace... It is the right of the Filipinos to get freedom."

The audience came in '60s retro costume. Some donned their best '60s look; some glittered in their Pinoy attire; others wore mini dress, complete with knee-long boots; and still others wore the in-vented cross pendant, the symbol of peace.

A few days after the Bloodhelles had sung Dion opening ditty, the Beatles' "All My Lovin'", the dance floor heated with rocking dancers; nonstop dancing continued for almost an hour.

Some fretted and sang along; others hugged their heads, and the others who could not fit in the space of the dance floor danced at the other end of the hall, swaying, rocking and swinging the boogie swings.

Serenade

The Hamana Trio, composed of composers Larry Delalon, Jeff Calvelo, and Roland Cazantes, did the Iron set and dished out sentimental Philippine love songs that didn't fail to ring at the listeners' hearts—truly a poignant response to the Bloodhelles' rock music.

Dancing came to a brief respite when charming emcee Amelia Geronimo Calvelo acknowledged the presence of Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann, who was called to the stage to give a brief message. The good mayor extended his sincerest greetings on the celebration of Philippine Independence, citing the Filipinos for their value, perseverance and industry.

In response to the audience clamor for a song, he obligingly jammed with the Bloodhelles, intoning in his deep baritone voice the Beatles' "Hard Day's Night" followed by a reprise of "All My Lovin'" to the delight of everyone.

Singing and dancing continued with more '60s songs from the Beach Boys and rock 'n' roll songs from the '50s. The Bloodhelles' current hit "Ido," the second single from their debut album, the first being "Walk on Fire," was thunderously applauded.

Despite the Bloodhelles' announcement of their final rendition, the audience simply refused to leave and asked for many more encores, which the band gladly obliged.

A few hours earlier in the same venue, the Bloodhelles wowed their select listeners at the VIP reception with a brief performance that lasted half an hour. The audience was composed of high-ranking Liberal Party officials, business and community leaders, media representatives, and major sponsors, led by James R. "Jim" Ahern Jr., honorary governor of the State of Hawaii.

Part of the Freedom Fest celebrations are a band-lecture-video presentation on "Philippine Music, a Historical Overview" by the writer, at the University of Hawaii at Manoa's (UHM) Center for the Performing Arts Concert Hall.

The presentation was an international Euro-disciplinal history of history and music aimed at a broad understanding of Philippine culture, through the musical arts and history that weaved pre-colonial, Spanish, American and post-colonial periods. It was made possible through the invitation of Consul General Bandilla to complement the Bloodhelles performances.

Attended by professors, music experts and enthusiasts, the lecture was well-received and was "usually the right level of discourse for the audience," said professor Ricardo D. Trimillos, chair of Asian Studies Program and professor of Ethnomusicology.

Days after the celebration, Bandilla's exalted that the Filipino-American community in Hawaii were still rushing and rolling, and many queries are being made even when the Bloodhelles would be back.

For the Bloodhelles, the experience was mind-blowing. It is a scene to be having had the chance to gloriously participate with their countrymen, in a faraway land such as Hawaii, in the celebration of the country's independence anniversary, all done in response to a patriotic call.

Visit the Bloodhelles' website, thebloodhellesband.com. Call the band's manager, Gengo Mercado, at 0917.3007870.

HONOLULU Mayor Mufi Hannemann performing with the band

THE BLOODHELLES

Festival of fearless virgins

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everyone, 18's or veteran, '80's or 'Boo members or not.

"You don't have to be a member just to participate," says Vera. And anyone young soul or aging glory elder is particular by this, that's no young merchant of writing. But also, 50-also seniors does. The most important thing right or is for them to write. Baka na meron pag-usapan kung magsulat."

"It can get very animated and heated," adds Vera, laughing. "Though it's more genial for brutal like some literary workshops where parang, 'Ang ito nang sinulat!' What we have is a full-on formal workshop where, 'ate ang elements of drama, etc.' Also, based on the material, baka ga ang kasama learned."

In the end, what Vera and company aspire to see is a piece that make for a good play "for its convincing lasts of events, an element of surprise, depth, may gut ring cadence, dancing lines."

Greater buzz

The Lahfest's keenness on the unconventional and the universal, its preference for the human reality and stylistically daring, has increasingly drawn the attention not only of Filipino playwrights eager to have their works showcased in it, but also of actors and directors hungry for new material to play with.

Last year's festival generated greater buzz when theater stars Eboy Buenaventura and Irma Adlawan, getting on stage together for the first time, appeared in Lua Gingson's "Fruitual," directed by a first-time director, Jenna Russo.

And one of its featured actors, "The Pakasaw On My Mind," written by upcoming playwright Job Pagdilao and staged by Rentuk Valle, subsequently won first prize in the Palanca Awards.

Aside from new works by writers, we've also been able to tap new directors like Rissa Raquiano and JV Villareal, or established directors trying their hand in the Lahfest for the first time," says Vera.

Among the heavyweights coming on board for the first time are Jose Javier Reyes, Dodong Dayao, UP artistic director who's staging Japanese playwright Yuji Sakata's Noh play "Three Sisters," and Trumpets' Jaime del Mundo, who's directing "Ito Mo Ba?," by Thai playwright Nuruwat Thamsatchanlee. Both in Asilo, announcement of the season of New Voice Company is also in the lineup of J. Dennis Teodosio's "Bugtong."

Glaring truth

"It's added that in this collective [of plays], stories ya ang may flaws, writing-wise: critical dialogue, malaks ang characters, o nagsasalig to over-facts," says Vera. But he says it's all part of the process of learning the craft. What he laments more strongly is the seeming unwillingness of many young writers to tackle socially engaged material, in exploring topical issues.

"Pati modernisasi o response ito for existing politics out of theater," says Vera. "Medyo there now is, 'mark is exclusive and therefore there a no truth.' E pagkatao mo naman sa creative, the truth is so glaring."

Still, he's gratified that something like the Virgin Lahfest, which shines the spotlight on the contemporary Filipino playwright, is taking place and is gradually drawing critical recognition.

"I'm hoping that this will extend beyond more than just the need to nurture[r] the emerging, that we can see how mood-ed, moods will work since there will be four performances per play," he says.

"For first-time directors and actors, creating originals as an experience. So seeing raga playwrights, the Virgin Lahfest is a venue to be fearless, na di kami matakot mag-fail. I'd like to see more plays na di na masakop, like, na maging known and well-different meanings. I would rather have a lot of emerging playwrights get a chance to show their work, so that habit na only one or three of them would shine, okay na [for Philippine theater]."

The Virgin Lahfest runs from 20 July 8 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' new outdoor theater. Schedules: Call 8321501, 8321704 or 8833999 for tickets.

E-mail the author at pazdi@inquirer.com.ph, visit www.gilbosudio.com

SCENE from Jun de Guzman's "Three Street Lot Girls," part of the Third Virgin Lahfest

Third Virgin Lahfest

Show schedules

Intercultural Night is a compilation of plays collectified by foreign playwrights: "Ito Ako Glen E." (by Rocco and Tisamaraporn), directed by Jaime del Mundo; "Ang Kwento ni Shiroshi Shimizu, directed by Dicta Mickey L. "Three Sisters" (a Noh play by Yuji Sakata, directed by Jose Javier Reyes). Tanghalang Huseng Batute. June 15 (8 p.m.) and July 7 (8 p.m.) and July 8 (3 p.m.)

Madulaanang Pandiwa—Homosexual-transsexual-not homosexuals here: "Sinumang Lalaki/Babae" (Denise Ann Sia, directed by Frank Rodriguez); "Sagutan" (Carmen Sorrento, directed by Rito Asilo); "Looking for Clarin" (Lara Melissa, directed by Rhyan Adalid). Tanghalang Huseng Batute. June 15 (8 p.m.) For m.) July 1 (3 p.m.) and July 8 (8 p.m.)

XX and X is the most unsettling and disturbing compilation of the season. Come with an open mind and expect the unexpected: "Silence" (Peggy Salvosa, directed by Nick Lerma); "Kompanyon" (Jose Lopez, directed by Victor Villareal); "My Pride is an ICU" (George Gal Kalaw Jr.). Tanghalang Huseng Batute. June 30 (3 p.m.) & p.m.) July 1 (8 p.m.) and July 8 (3 p.m.)

Ang Pagtatalupan at the Pang Ibabaan provides another take on feminist issues, sexual desire and the body's ways, both good and evil: "Kuyam" (Angel Tuazon, directed by Jose Alvin); "Three Women's Letters" (Rolly de Guzman, directed by Nicanor Tiongson); "Encounter" (Layda Balay, directed by Tonet Dukanan). Tanghalang Huseng Batute, July 1 (3 p.m. & p.m.), July 8 (8 p.m.) and July 15 (3 p.m.)

Children's Plays: "Bombay at Gui-an," three humorous performed by the Training Staff Lasik Ensemble and directed by George de Jesus III), "Ang Dios ng Bundok" (Nicole Bituin, "Nang Pumuti Ganang Uwak" and sang "Ang" (Jerome Lamaning, directed by Catherine Racuyal). Bulwagang Amelia Hernandez. June 23 (3 p.m.), June 30 (10 a.m. & p.m.) and July 7 (3 p.m.)

Monday and Folklore: "Ang Pagmahalang" (Jon Pagdilao, directed by Christian Gaudiel); "Pagtatalupan ng Barbero" (Pagsilo Braga, directed by Nick Lerma). Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino. July 16 (8 p.m.), July 17 (3 p.m. & p.m.) and July 18 (3 p.m.)

Public readings of full-length plays will be at the Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (2 p.m.): Gardel Sy's "Lumen People Play" (June 16); Rhea Arellano's "Baby E." (June 30), "Jin Cayanan's "Sadio Pangarap" (July 8) and "Falling Upcoming" by Melou Jacob (July 1).

Platform awards of the Belonging Carlos Francisco at 3:45 p.m., June 19, July 3, and July 8-9.

Tickets to the Virgin Lahfest are at P200 (for plays in the shows at the Tanghalang Huseng Batute and Bulwagang Amelia Hernandez) and P300 (for plays in the shows at the Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino). Call 8321501, 8321704 or 8833999 for tickets.

Coming soon: Art that transforms

ART ENTRY in the Virgin Lahfest

"CRADLE Music for Babes and Babies" by the Philippine Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra

From page C1

ged by artists' collectives, including the Bangkok Sculptors of Talented Nakas, Quezon.

Expectant mothers and fathers will surely be interested in the concert titled "Cradle Music: Symphony for Babies and Babies" in July 7 p.m., at the CCP's Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater). It will feature the Metro Manila Symphony Orchestra under Chito Toledo, Kaya Ong the violin/harpsichord, Ding Ong the cello and more by Tanghalang Pilipino.

Let's hope the little tykes will not bring, scream or wail the house down. Lately adults, those of mind-... notably that of Mozart—has been known to have soothing, beneficial effects on children.

All these interesting programs and events will be complemented by the regular seasons from the CCP resident companies like the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, Ballet Philippines, Tanghalang Pilipino, Philippine Ballet Theater, plus the Filipino Artists Series, now celebrating its 20th year.

At the CCP TV ad pun: It "Ito ba maganda kung may ad sa harap mo?" (Let's life beauty-ful if you have one?).

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'The arts can be an effective tool in changing people's mindset,' CCP's Nanding Josef says

Coming soon: Art that transforms

KAMANO
family

By Amado Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

"THE ARTS CAN BE AN EFFECTIVE TOOL IN changing people's mindset," declared Nanding Josef, vice president and artistic director of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

"We have been using therapy for children traumatized by natural calamities and armed conflicts," he added. "The present CCP administration would like to focus for the next few years largely on art as a potent tool for transforming lives, communities and places, and transforming them for the better."

Josef, who is also a theater artist, spoke at the recent press conference that announced the CCP's programs and projects for the rest of the year.

Emily Abrera, chair of the CCP board of trustees, said that "what we are trying to achieve here is a better living environment for all of us, not having a connection with everyday life."

Helping illustrate the point were Amiyan's environmental art exhibit on the CCP's front lawn, consisting of 3,000 rice stumps and 116 kilos of carbon rays. This was to protest the rice-producing province's being threatened by the rising abuse of the environment by illegal loggers. But the symbols of death are now surrounded by splashes of life, for the Green Army has planted seedlings around the rice stumps.

And in the main lobby, during the press con, stood a parlor grand piano being reinterpreted by Alwin Bustillo for his fellow, who operated the last of the piano factories before the onset of electronic instruments.

"The product is Bustillo's, about the transformation of memory and has into something evocative and communicative," said Josef.

Found objects were another unique feature of the press conference. Media persons were asked to choose one and bring this to the tables of the round-at-tion, who then transformed the ordinary objects into works of art.

Alma Quinto and Mike Sakuwalo, for example, painted lovely nature-inspired scenes on a pair of irons. Sculptor Nal Arrogante fashioned a mobile using what would delight a child, from discarded wires. And Jay Pecson drew eyes on miniature objects because, he said these were always "observing" us.

Healing

"Trauma, Interrupted" runs until July 29 featuring works by women artists from six countries which explore the link between trauma, art and healing.

Some of the works focus on the healing process. Lyra Abaag Garcellano has a photo-based installation of rooms in private and domestic spaces. Alma Quinto collaborated with a child survivor of lymphophasa Sonang, while Sally Gutierrez Ocon (quiz) created a video installation with a chorus—"crying room" for healing sexually abused girls.

Delving into the art community nature theme is the sculptural show "Dap-Awan sa Imahen" (until July 31), featuring indigenous works cre-

CONTINUED ON C3

PETER PAHOLA, pianist

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LIFESTYLE

Freud and Jung in whodunit

The father of psychoanalysis chasing a psycho killer in America makes for a catchy premise in "The Interpretation of Murder," but the psychobabble makes this novel more narcoleptic than hypnotic

By Basil S. De Vera

IT IS SO CRAZY AS IDEA that it's nearly irresistible. Imagine Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung matching wits with a mysterious serial killer in 1909s America. That's the catchy premise of Jed Rubenfeld's "The Interpretation of Murder: A Novel" (Henry Holt and Company, New York, 2006, 307 pages).

Rubenfeld spoiler his choice prose to painting a stunning picture of an American city in statu cosmopolitan: "Its every block, enormous and frozen skeleton apparent where crane ties had been the day before... Capitol and speakeasies drove everything, releasing fantastic energies, chaotically thrown on multidirectionally."

But all those energies are bright, however, Rubenfeld's tale begins with a strange killing that happens just before Freud and Jung, both culturally unknown outside their countries, arrive in the United States to accept honors at Clark University. Freud speaks for both himself and Rubenfeld when he says while preparing to board a train that would take him into Manhattan, "If they only knew what we are bringing them."

"Murder" unravels nicely from the first-person narrative of the bright physician Stratham Younger, sure for the most-part views that come with a keen consciousness and the cocky movements of the per-

pective. The switching is a bit disconcerting, though Younger does make for a charming narrator.

But "Murder" adheres in fact too-strictures when channeling the activities of the villain detective, Jester Littlestone, assigned by the mayor to solve the baffling murder of celebutante named Elizabeth Nordner, but when the corpse goes missing after the autopsy and another girl is assailed in a similar fashion but survives, the dramatic crime suddenly has no. Unnerving it all is a shadowy group known only as the Secession.

All the while, Freud stays New York, making public observations comments. Younger indicates him, describing what goes on with a palpable sense of wonder. But it is the eccentric, brooding Jung whom Younger eventually comes to on. "The workings of his mind wound me, too, by several different measure," Younger says of Jung. "His conversation was disjointed, but logic finally his motivations disturbing."

When it becomes clear that the surviving victim—Nora Acton—may be in great danger, Younger hustles Freund, but the endeavor to Freud, catching the coroner's periphery, was slow. She look down to a dragging pace.

Certainly, having Freud as a character is novel, but the mind fantastic in Freud are simple or uninteresting, a primal trait. Younger, on the other hand, feels himself telling the Story, who also happens to be his patient. Add to that the constant reference to "Murder" and the middle part of "Murder" drags needlessly.

Rubenfeld makes for the perfect author for this book. A Yale University law professor who studied Shakespeare at Jefferd and did his thesis in Princeton on Freud, Rubenfeld assiduously combines all those elements into an entertaining blood book.

That's because, ultimately, Freud becomes an obstacle for the narrative, especially when Rubenfeld notes that Freud never returned to America after this one visit. The events in "Murder" are his strongest sessions only yet Freud seems largely sensationalist, a literary gimmick merely. It's all the other characters that lend close watching. Unfortunately, there are so many characters, readers will be hard-pressed to tell them apart, dooming "Murder" doom.

What you have there is a surprisingly dark, somewhat anachronistic whodunit set in a time of massive upheaval and promise. Though it requires its participant, "The Interpretation of Murder" effortlessly sabotages itself by arranging all sorts of murky circumstance near the end, further muddling the narrative, leaving the reader with a complaint of a thriller that might but not

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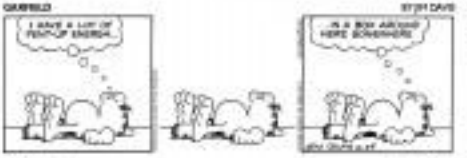
GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS



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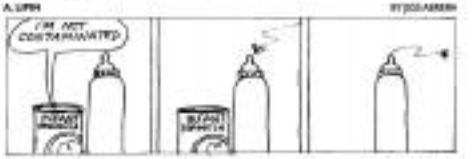

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PUGAD BABOY BY NIK JUNIOR

MUTTS BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

LOVEBOATS BY ELIZABETH CHONGLO

ATOMIC AND WOODY BY LYNN GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PIRAINO

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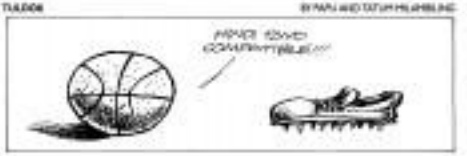
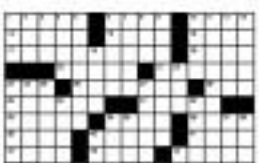


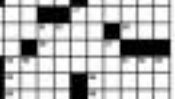
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alex Kozinski
Hurricane, UT

Saturday's Puzzle Solved



HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY Many of you tackle large projects and accomplish complete them. This is an important accomplishment for you. You are aware of trends in society; you are often a shrewd observer of the human condition. You have a strong sense of duty and are a loyal friend. You attach and border on the protective. While hard to build or construct something in the coming year.

Birthdays of: Carol Burnett, singer/songwriter Rupert Holmes, actress Debra Messing, baseball player Ryne Sandberg.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	7	8	4	5		6		
		3	2					4
5							8	9
			9		5		2	3
3				2				5
2	8		1		7			
4	3							1
6					2	5		
		1		9	4	2	3	

Difficulty Level ★

Conceptis Puzzles, Ltd. by Dave Green (www.conceptispuzzles.com)

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	5	6	9	2	1	7	8	4
4	1	8	3	7	5	2	6	9
9	2	7	6	8	4	1	5	3
6	4	2	1	9	7	5	3	8
8	5	9	2	4	3	6	1	7
3	7	1	8	5	6	4	9	2
7	6	4	5	3	9	8	2	1
1	8	3	4	6	2	9	7	5
2	9	5	7	1	8	3	4	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2005
LIFESTYLE D1

Helping kids love books and reading

'Harry Potter' publisher Scholastic Books, now in the Philippines, aims to cultivate among kids the fading reading habit

PET A TV, A VIDEOGAME AND a book in front of an average kid, and chances are, the kid will pick the TV or the videogame—not the book.

For reading books is one of the best ways to build a child's character and open his or her mind to new ideas.

"Readers are more self-confident. They can express themselves better, they think for themselves, and they create their own ideas," points out Melanie Bolen, country vice president of Scholastic Philippines. This is why she insists that reading should be every body's business.

Sad, that's exactly what Scholastic Philippines strives to do: make reading everybody's business. By bringing well-written, colorful, superbly designed reading materials for children of all ages and interests, and making these more affordable to parents and schools, Scholastic fulfills its goal to "reach and inspire every child to read more, learn more, understand themselves better and ultimately lead better lives."

Scholastic entered the Philippine market in 2000 when the company acquired Trudeau, a leading publisher of reference materials since 1962. The merger brought Scholastic's innovative approach to children's books together with Trudeau's extensive experience as a provider of trusted reference books.

Scholastic is perhaps best known as the publisher of the "Harry Potter" series. But the story of the boy wizard is only one of the many fun, fresh, yet value-laden children's books that the company publishes.

Beloved classics like "Old Yeller" the Big Red Dog," newfangled superhero "Captain Underpants," and journalistic-detective mouse "Geronimo Stilton" share the shelves with positive [crash - non-dogmatic] values education series "Help Me Be Good," as well as fact-filled, fun as read references like the "How Book of Knowledge" and "I Wonder Why."

Book fairs

To help make reading a habit among school children, the company launched Scholastic Book Fairs in 2000. The Book Fairs are week-long thematic programs done in various schools around the country, and include activities such as storytelling, story-acting, crafts making, and many others.

The children can also browse through the mobile stores and serve a "wish list" of the books they want their parents to buy for them.

"Some of them even save up their own allowances and buy their own books," says Bolen.

On top of it all, the classy blue pantheon the mobile bodies receive a free classroom library.

At first, the schools were wary of the program. "We were being compared to the other companies who are just selling books. [But] we were not just selling; we had programs and week-long activities so that the kids would really get into their reading," Newsbytes, the Book Fairs have become so popular among schools, parents and children. "We have probably covered more than a thousand schools nationwide."

With TV videogames, the Internet, and a hundred other competing distractions, it is no surprise that very few people—children and adults—read books regularly.

"People read less now, because of all the media options available, and also because people are busy even the parents," Bolen says. "Theoretically everybody thinks reading is important, but in practice they really don't do it. Reading is almost temporary. The more you read, the more you comprehend, the better you become. You can't just read nuts and then read just nuts book next year."

Although it's never too late to start reading, Ms. Bolen insists that a child's love for books should be cultivated as early as possible. "A child's mind develops at such a fast pace at a younger age, especially above or eight years old. When you give them books at that time, they will consider books as their friends, not as their enemies. In fact, the psychology is, if you give a young child a toy together with a book, the child will see no difference between the toy and the book. Both are colorful and fun to him."

PRE-ORDER your Harry Potter 7 book at any National Book Store branch nationwide before July 10 to avail of a 10-percent discount. Loking National card holders will get an additional P65 book coupon.

All about heartbreaks

MUSEUMS PUBLISHING, Inc. has recently released "Sawi: Pinoy Essays, Stories and Poems on All Kinds of Heartbreaks" edited by Ada J. Lorredo, Ed A. Patiño and Rica Bolipata-Santos.

"Sawi" is an anthology of short pieces in different genres by 47 top writers. The contributors are mostly young and many of them have won major writing awards.

The stories, stories and poems in the anthology are united by the premise that while heartbreaks, especially of the romantic kind, are inevitable in life, imagination, however, can convert them into the fascinating stuff of light-hearted, even uproariously hilarious, literature. They are bilingual (English and Filipino) and all of them are remarkably imaginative—from a story told by a mute dog hopelessly in love with its female master, to a poem that prescribes eating a broken heart by following the instructions for deleting the "Love Bug" computer virus, to a mock lesson on how to write interesting fiction about someone who stole your heart for breakfast, to flash fiction that captures a relationship that is breaking up through a soliloquy sewn above the woman is driving the car and the beautiful mascara set.

"Sawi" is certain to soothe the aching hearts of thwarted lovers; it also has inside of the heartbreakers in the unsure ashen shop will be able to smile, even laugh, to rekindle the passions of youth and evoke mellow memories among older readers, and to satisfy the craving of all lovers of good literature.

The edgy cover design and illustrations of "Sawi" are by Dennis Ilan of electrolychee.com and the book design is by Armando N. Diaño.

"Sawi" is available at all National Book Store, Powerbooks, Books for Less outlets and other major book stores at P280 per copy.

Call 7234431 or e-mail mdlover@ydr.dd.net.

Philippine British Society elects new officers and induction set

FRANK A. IBARRETA

FRANK A. IBARRETA, CIVIL leader and president of the Ateneo Lahad Foundation, was elected president of the Philippine British Society with Robert Banks as vice president.

Also elected to the board of trustees were Emmanuel Santos, secretary; Andrew Malone, treasurer; Msgr. Gaston Bush, director; Pedro Belchior, director; Victoria Morello, Lyn Lobaco, Howard Bolton, Cora Reyes, Irene Burke and immediate past president David Reynolds, directors.

British Ambassador Peter Beckingham will induct the new PBS officers tomorrow at the ambassador's residence in Forbes Park, Makati. Retired Philippine ambassadors to Britain will also be honored at the same occasion.

SMART celebrates Migrant Workers Month in Kuwait with SMART Pinoy OFWs

Thousands of OFWs were treated to a sizzling evening of laughter and entertainment when the Smart Pinoy Goes to the Middle East Tour 'ay Kuwait last June 15. It was all a part of Smart's commemoration of Filipino Workers Month.

The lucky hours of the Shek Hotel in Salmiya, Kuwait, was packed with Pinoys hungering for a taste of home and they weren't disappointed, as a star-studded line-up of Pinoy celebrities put on an unforgettable four-hour show.

As we ignacio bestowed on the crowd with a healthy dose of Pinoy humor while simultaneously dishing out appliance showcases and cash prizes in the raffle.

The entertainment surged when Rico Perales circled around the stage while belting OPM favorites. This was followed by more laughs courtesy of Jayson Aglipay, who had the crowd swinging to the Gloria Estefan beat.

And then it was time to get a little sentimental when acoustic crooner Neca Valeria grabbed the spotlight. His original compositions and covers of love songs melted the hearts of everyone in attendance.

But all these were just a prelude for the main event: songbird Regine Velasquez. The crowd was enraptured by Velasquez's stunning set of popular tunes.

The Smart Pinoy Goes to the Middle East Tour has visited Bahrain, Qatar, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and now Kuwait. And with every show, the host ensures the OFW community seems to get bigger and bigger.

This tour is Smart's way of cheering the millions of OFWs who truly fulfill the dreams of so many Filipino families.

"Smart firmly believes that it is the family that fuels the drive of every Pinoy overseas," says Pit Cuesta "Bong" Mateo, Head of Wireless Consumer Division.

"It is for this reason that Smart Pinoy offers products and services that bring Filipinos closer to home, wherever they are in the world," he adds.

As the premier Philippine mobile company, Smart Communications offers the most reliable services for OFWs such as IDD, International Text, International MMS and International 3G Video Calling. Smart also gives OFWs the fastest way of remitting money through Smart Padala. Smart Communications ensures that everyone has access to these secure and affordable communication solutions for going to where OFWs are, listening to what they need and responding quickly.

Whether it's providing IDD and International Text services or staging a concert show to remember, one thing is certain: Smart always has the needs of our OFWs in mind.

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SMART PINOY

WOW

DARE SMART TAYO

LIFESTYLE

Contemporary mural of Christ engages the eye and heart

"HALINA HUMAGA-ASA." The 2005 work has become a very familiar work with its version of Christ breaking bread with street children.

A contemporary recasting of the 'Last Supper' situates Christ among street urchins and farmers, using real people as models. In an uncanny turn of events, the farmer-models have been killed in an agrarian bloodbath in Negros

By Lito B. Zulueta

PROBABLY THE most popular Filipino artwork in the last several years has come from neither the sway gallery now nor private or public collections. It is not even one painted by an academically trained artist. It is a work that hardly screams art. It is a work—please pardon the cliché—of the heart.

The work is "Hapag ng Pagasa," by businessman-artist Jose S. Velasco. At 4x8 feet, the work is big in scale as well as issues. A recasting of the "last Supper," it shows Christ sharing a meal with hungry-eyed urchins.

The Christ figure is rosy-cute but unadventurously portrayed in the traditional hooded figure with Middle Eastern features—he is the biblical Christ come to Manila to break bread with young underdogs.

Perhaps because of Christ's biblical air, some of the children stare at him, mesmerized. The others are deep into their food. Meanwhile, two kids look dejectedly outside of the canvas, as if beckoned and lured by the people of the streets that is their host and domain.

The viewer wonders, in fact, whether the anguish would be the children's lost me only with Christ, but also with the church's of humanity because are the ubiquity of street children in urban areas classes, there's hardly enough charity around to shelter, clothe and feed them.

But of course for Velasco, a devout Salesian seminarian and now a family man of four children, the work signifies hope, as the title suggests. These children will be fed and taken care of—by the charity of the viewers who are moved by the painting.

And, indeed, the mural is moving.

It has made the rounds not only of the gallery circuit but also of schools, churches and communities where it never fails to attract a crowd for its striking reinvention of the "Last Supper." Perhaps because it serves more to the popular crowd out of the gallery circuit, it has earned popular acclaim, so much so that Velasco has become some sort of a folk artist, a label that he would deny.

"I am not an artist," he said. "Just a hearter."

From an art connoisseur's point of view, the work reeks of kitsch. It contains none of the existentialist woes of conceptual art or the ideological cynicism of social realism. It has none of the hallucinate narcissism that characterizes today's art schools and

CONTINUED ON E2

"SALU-SALO." The newest work by Jose Velasco puts Christ in the midst of farmers and in the center of the agrarian problem.

OUR Lady of Pilar (background)

Text and photos by Denise N. Murillo

CEBU WAS ENDOWED AS CEBU DEBIDO blessed. When the Spaniards came to Lalo in Cagayan in 1583 via its rivers, they did three things: establish Christianity, rename Lalo into Ciudad de Nuevo Segovia (with formerly of Santo Tomas founder Miguel de Benavides as its first bishop), and consequently make the new city the fourth to be founded in the Philippines after Cebu (1565), Manila (1571), and Vigan (1575).

It was also in Lalo where the historically rich image of Our Lady of Pilar was brought. Commissioned by the Dominicans, the paper-mache image depicts a brown-skinned Madona that is believed to be miraculous. Crafted in Mexico, Our Lady of Pilar is assumed to have been inspired by Mexico's Virgen of Guadalupe.

According to documents at the museum of the basilica, legend has it that the image used to have fair skin, but "through the years, as the Madonna became mother of the Cagayanon, she 'adapted' (to) the brown complexion of her people."

While Cagayan may be easily known for its tourist attractions such as the Callao Caves, the Cagayan River, and of course, the all-skilled Our Lady of Pilar shrine, it will also be known soon as the venue of the closing ceremonies for this year's National Heritage Month.

"It is indeed a great honor of Cagayan North to be the venue of the closing ceremonies of the National Heritage Month celebration," said Jennifer Lam, wife of Cagayan Gov. Edgar Sitoy. Lam, during the opening program at the second chamber of the Callao Caves. "The more or we understand what our heritage is all about, the easier it is for our children to embrace our heritage."

It contingent from Honolulu has included first-ed director Randy Hooper, Filipino Heritage Festival, Inc. president Amelia Ballon, National Commission for Culture and Arts commissioner Tristan Angeles, and Carina Lebron, along with journalists from major metropolitan dailies were flown via Air Philippines to Tuguegarao to officiate the festivities.

The closing festivities were ushered in by a photo exhibit, "Visions of Cagayan North," by Donald Tapan and Hildebrid Tapan (the photographer's daughter), and the "Dalena ga—Treasures of Cagayan North's Heritage Exhibit."

Heritage tour

The following day a heritage tour was made of Cagayan. First stop was the San Jacinto Church. Then built by intrepid Dominican friars in 1604, the church was reconstructed by fr. Jose Benito Abu Magdalena. It was the first church ever in Cagayan to be made of bricks and mortar.

Next stop was the St. Philomene Church in Rizal, which was completed in 1881 by Fr. Casimiro Gonzalez. 600 Mesurering 67 meters long, 20 meters wide, and 12.5 meters high, it is the biggest and oldest brick church in the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao.

The Sanapang Church ruins (Saint Michael the Archangel Church) in Gattaran is unique in that it is the only one that faces both the Cagayan and Chico Rivers. During the Spanish era, Nassipang was one of the big towns of the Valley and was of the highest importance because the chief means of transportation at the time was through the rivers.

In Enrile municipio, the oldest bell in Isabela was found. The Santa Maria, found at the San Isidro de Pelaeta Church, was forged in 1595, a year before the Dominican occupied the city's ecclesiastical administration. There is no record of how the bell got to the town and who brought it there, but there are records indicating that the bell was transported to Manila in February 1929 for the 22nd International Eucharistic Congress.

Spanish era

Also in Gattaran is the 17th century Spanish house used for manufacturing red bricks. Dating those times, men aged 18-60 were required to render one forced labor for 40 days in service of the Church and state. Work included hauling rocks, planting and harvesting sugar cane for the enclosure used as binder for the bricks, and gathering and carting firewood to the kilns.

Another use of the house was as a watchtower to look out for invaders attempting to come in through the Cagayan River in which case, bells would be rung to warn the townsfolk.

A few minutes away is the aforementioned town of Lal-lo. This is where the church of St. Dominic (Church of Augustinian during the Spanish times), founder Fr. Fr. Diego de Bastida and Tomas Castillo in 1504 and the venerable Evangelization Cross is located.

NASSIPANG Church ruins

CARINA Lebron, Randy Harper and Tristin Angeles join other young performers from Ipsig.

"ILOTA (Photo long ex. Tobig, "by Joi Pascua

Pascua and Zamora at West

Joi Pascua and Eric Zamora present "Rupa," a three-morning exhibit featuring videos and installations. The 02-based Zamora and the Norway-based Pascua explore the idea of displacement. The exhibit runs until July 21 at West Gallery, West Avenue, QC. Call 410238, 411021 and 2211194.

Yasas at Megamall

Ray Yasas presents "Contained Spaces," until July 8 at West Gallery (4/F, Bldg A., SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City). The exhibit features wall-mounted and free-standing fabrics interpreting the Japan puzzle. Call 6344364.

Genetics at GSIS Museum

Jesus Caraballo's exhibit, "Embrollos," or as the "eye" as a result, runs until June 30 at the GSIS Museum of Art, Roxas Blvd. Call 5210231 loc. 2102.

"HAITLONG Mata/3rd Eye," by Jesus Caraballo

Visual Arts

Tuazon at SM Art Center

The new at the SM Art Center (SM Megamall, 4/F Bldg. A) is titled "Reality Sandwiches." Organized by Rosario Art Ltd. and curated by Roberto Chabet, the exhibit presents works of twelve major sketching families core temporary to appropriated the first of the last fifty years to assemble and assay from assembling. "The show relives on the practice of such to practice memory, loss and remembering," says Ibe at list.

"I'm particularly interested in the power of images and memories and reality. I'm fascinated with images that hold sacred truths or the shared meanings and aspects of life and death. "When taken as a new commentary on the ever-expanding mixed realities that invades the border lines and weaves an endless systems of interrelations. 'Reality Sandwiches' exposes our relative understanding of the world, our ability to invent links from the inherited human products, and our deadly reliance on language as a singular gatekeeper to significance. Amazing, self- reflexive, resonant, 'Reality Sandwiches' offers a new view on what we call real, exacting us to look deeper into the real

"ADOBOTOTS of Ilumo," by Marlon Lopa

"WINDMILLS of LLamasta," by Mariel Lopa

and interactions of things. The show runs until June 24. Call 813 0318 or visit www.thirdeye.ph.

Lopa at Mezzo

Mother and daughter Marissa and Mariel de Leon Lopa exhibited a joint exhibit "Random Art," June 26-July 26 at the Mezzo Restaurant, Greenbelt 2, Makati City. The exhibit will feature artworks done in oil, paintings of landscape and seascape of Boracay, Baguio and distant places in the South, and still life, fauna animals and favorite landmarks in Sanctuary, Canada and other European countries.

Chicago outdoor exhibit

"Bikini Bar Garden," an exhibit of 20 outdoor sculptures by 6006 de Saint Phalle, is on display at the Old Field Park Conservatory (400 E. Central Park Ave., Chicago, IL). Until Oct. 31 as part of the citywide exhibition "World Play Summer in Chicago 2007." Saint Phalle's massive artworks include fiberglass sculptures of animals, mythical figures, totems, and "Nanas"—oversized dancing women celebrating the female spirit—reach as high as 10 feet high and span 26 feet long. The artist, one of the famous 1960's New Realists, also awarded the 10th Premium Imperial Prize in 2000. Her last work exhibited in the Philippines was Japanese pottery at Ayala.

Japan ceramic and clay exhibit

The Japanese Foundation, Manila will present the ceramic and clay exhibition, "Japanese Contemporary Pottery: The Rising Generation from Traditional Japanese Kilns." The exhibit features outstanding works by young artists who are continuing the traditions in Japanese pieces renowned for their distinctive styles. More than 70 pieces will be on view at the Ground Floor Gallery of the Ayala Museum, July 11-Aug1. Call 8151241 loc. 48 or e-mail email@jfmo.org.ph or visit www.jfmo.org.ph.

Sona art workshop

Painter-teacher Leonardo B. Sona holds an art workshop for eight sessions beginning June 23, 9-11:30 a.m., at the following venues: 23 June-9/11 venue: Zamora St. Brgy. Pinhal, San Francisco del Monte, QC (Sundays); J. Vargas Museum, University of the Philippines, Diliman, QC (Wednesdays); Triumph Building (behind Jollibee) Bugallon and 16 Tau Supermarket's Sonona Avenue, QC (Thursdays); Philippine Medical Association's Lona corner Malakas St., QC (Saturdays). Call 9767198.

TAM AUSTRIA'S MADONNA AND CHILD ON CWL COMMEMORATIVE PLATE

To mark its 86th anniversary, the Catholic Women's League of Makati City launched last June 12 its the Manila Polo Club a commemorative plate depicting the Mother and Children designed by top artist Tam Austria. Photo shows Austria with CWL president Tessie Hidalgo and CWL officer Tina Castro.

Contemporary mural of Christ engages . . .

Previous page E1

shapes, particularly those coming from the academic. Above all, it's sculpture-just-to-be. It dares to suffer Christ on a canvas in an unexpensive that is supposed to celebrate artistic freedom beyond the shackles of organized religion and established norms or tone.

But the work works exactly because it dares to be a fly in the antichrist's ointments. Forever of it, 2005 when there was so much hullabaloo about Da Vinci's "Last Supper" as a result of "The Da Vinci Code" [the novel and later the movie], "Unang" defied the prevalent mood of suspicion and sounded as anything remotely connected with Christianity and religion.

In a time when subtlety and palimpsests mind seductive questions about Christianity, Velasco showed that the message of the "Last Supper" was not whether John the Beloved was really Mary Magdalene in disguise, but that Christ would always go the distance whenever people are in need, be they the Magdalenes or the street urchin.

True grit

In Composing the Aramaic biblical figure in contemporary dress, the work shows the inevitable relevance of Christ in human history and conditions. It shows that Christianity is true grit. And it doesn't do badly in its unique reflect: the work shows the best qualities of the grounds, concrete realistic technique that allows the figures to stand out amid the monochark-grey ambience.

Perhaps most important, the figures come alive. Each of the children is remarkably distressed. It helps that as "boarist" rather than

THE ARTIST with one of his models in "Rainbow," Negros Occidental Senior Alejandro Quemas, 72. RIGHT: The Bishop Isadias of Alejandro and El Tupaz, 72, who also modeled for the painting, are exalted by their wives after spiritual guidance broke out last June 4.

A RIGHT of Velasco's work hangs in one of Cirilo Bautista's houses in La Carolina, Negros Occidental.

artist, Velasco personally knows each of the children. They were poor children around Manila and Quezon City whom Velasco asked to pose for the mural.

One of them is a girl who belongs to a family squatting at the North Cemetery. Her boy is a push-cart scavenger who has a father addicted to drugs. Another boy has been in and out of jail for petty theft.

The stories of his children models are enriched in the book "They Have Jesus: The Stories of the Children of Unang," launched last December.

Velasco said the painting and the book are his legacy to his children that will remind them of the values of charity and compassion. In the past, he said, he had "failed to show to my children the real situations of life, since we have lived a very comfortable life."

"I hope to hang the Unang ng Pag-ibig on the wall of my dining room so I remind my children to be grateful for what they have to eat, for what they have been served. Recently, it is to let them remember those who have none," Velasco said.

In a foreword to the book, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales urged people to "welcome this portrait as your own and make the dining table serving life not just a table of hope, but a banquet ng pag-ibig Cristo of Israel."

Velasco's art, therefore, is one of utility. According to physician-artist Jim Lorenas of the University of Santo Tomas Hospital, Velasco's work follows the spirit of Ina Cachola art—one that uses for moral for evangelical and pastoral purposes.

Velasco will be exhibiting his new works in a show that opens today at the UST Santo Domingo gallery. The conception of the new series is a reworking again of the "Last Supper" but this time pairing Christ amid poor farmers.

"It's as if "Pakikibaka," the work shows the biblical Christ squatting on hard ground in a pastoral setting as he raises the cup to share wine with peasants.

As in the mural on streetsleepers, Velasco also used real farmers in the new work. They were farmers of a disputed hacienda in La Castellana in Negros Occidental, Velasco said.

"Last March 22, we were to jubilate as the farmers hosted a fiesta of Hacienda Nene Maria, as were finally installed in the disputed land," Velasco said. "It was just a month installation. Only 57 farmers were installed instead of the 902."

But Velasco's joy was short-lived. Early this month, after Velasco had just finished the work in his studio, the military pulled out of the dispersed territory, and the farmers installed claims were allegedly attacked by shotgun-wielding security guards of the landowners.

"NO GREATER Love"

"LEAD me Lord"

"SMALL Serves Big Hopes"

Velasco Gamos. Two of Velasco's models were killed.

When he walked down south the next day, Velasco said he was speechless at the carnage and the terrible inhumanity. But the farmers were "stoic." "They had great courage," he said.

Because of the incident, "Pakikibaka" is expected to receive significant treatment. Plus the tragedy prefigured by the figure of Christ raising the cup of sacrifice amid toxic-looking farmers who seemed resigned to their fate?

Perhaps. Questions such as these are bound to be asked when one is confronted with works as those of Velasco's that truly palms with heart, not still-absorbed art.

"Pakikibaka: A Journey of Faith in Art," the new solo exhibit of Jose A. Velasco, will be unveiled tonight at 6:30, at the Bento Angelico Gallery by 2327 Bonifacio Magsaysay St. Ermita Arroyo, DP and 107 Fine Arts dean Jaime de los Santos.

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Illustration art as fine art

By Constantine C. Tejero

ABEL MORAZA IS A BIT disappointed that local art writers seem to ignore his exhibits of illustrations. The most reason for disappointment that the environment creates Tirad surrounds whom some consider the Philippines' own Maxfield Parrish.

But his is not the only case, as most often such shows are not taken by art critics as seriously as they would an exhibit of abstraction, installations, assemblages or some such esoteric. Which is rather puzzling, considering the painstaking effort, stylistic skill and deep thought that one also gives illustration art.

Consider Moraza's second solo exhibit "Pinta & Hue," 21 pieces in acrylic on paper, currently on Double Gallery in the Serendra. (3/4, Bldg. A, 5th Bonifacio Global, Mandaluyong City.

The show comprises eight paintings on the theme of Filipino manhikans, and 13 illustrations for the book "Long Ago and the Aswang," a retelling of 10 Southern German fairy tales by Fran Ilig and Irene Villanueva. All are rendered in Moraza's trademark sharp-focus realist style, which he learned from the small-brush technique of Botticelli and Hirsch.

Although he first thrived on monochromes, in pen-and-ink drawing as a political cartoonist and in black-and-white line drawing as a storybook illustrator, Moraza also considers color a solution. He uses blend complementary colors so that the brilliance of each line doesn't clash with the others' but rather harmonizes, as in the manhikans paintings "Seraglio Remorse" and "Inambokot Blues."

But even more than his definite solutions, the viewer appreciates his fine rendering of form, the illustrative skill goes beyond mere visual narrative.

The viewer can immediately see it in the painstaking details of a piece such as "Supremacy of Fire": the grains of the loose soil, the ribbing of the banana leaves, and even how the light falls on the front and the back of each leaf; the yellow overripe bananas on the ground; the airy yellow and purple flowers of some weeds.

Or look at the paisley print of Inapatan's pants, and the meticulous braiding of her kilometric hair; the sheen and the folds of the artist's robe; the rough texture of the yellow-ocher wall; the delicate crystal decanter in the table; even the finer perspective of the chessboard (but that's carried with attention-to-mistake).

Moraza took up Fine Arts for two years at University of Santo Tomas, shifted to Architecture, then Engineering, and later resumed his art studies in University of the East.

For a time he worked as an editorial cartoonist for a newspaper. Inspired by a book on Dali, he decided to paint full-time, went through a Social Realist phase, and won the top prize in the 1st Metrobank Annual Painting Competition in 1994.

His illustration for "The Origin of the Frog" was a runner-up in the 2000 Unesco-Sony Symposium for Picture-Book Illustrators. With "The Swallow Pin and the Good Luck Eel," he was registered on the 2002 honor list of the International Board on Books for Young People.

Such awards, however, hardly go into his head. Upon seeing the illustration of Ironically Speaking, Wayne Andersen and James Chin-Quee, he says he had been deeply humbled.

"The truth is that the quality of my works are still way below the world's standard because evident to me," he recalls.

Like most graphic illustrators, Moraza is one of our unusually unsung artists. This show, however, forcibly proves that illustration can be as fine as art in any.

"SUPREMACY of Fire"

THE ARTIST in his studio

"RAPUNZEL"

It is through mythology that I am able to materialize my ideas

"BLACK Goddess I Study"

Images of the sacred

By Dudley Diaz
Contributor

THE "HEREAFTER" AND THE "UNEXPLAINable" have always captivated me. I often ask myself: what is it that is eternal in or beyond human existence? How could I represent it? These are the thoughts that provoked me to create my sculptures.

It is through mythology—its goddesses and gods, or its heroes and victims—that I am able to materialize my ideas, explain and clarify my thoughts. In mythology the relationship between the sacred and the individual is very strong. The strength of this relationship goes beyond the individual's capacity to rationalize and prove its existence. As Joseph Campbell said, "There has so little difference between a mystic and a madman for both are on the same course... the only difference is that the first knows his experience and the latter does not."

In this exhibit, I will be presenting mostly painted or gilded wood sculptures, the "images of the sacred." I like wood as a medium since it elicits a feeling of life and celebrates its seeming scratch-and-sniff. For my bronze sculptures I make the molds in wax and so that the final statues of the piece resemble the wood model.

I have chosen angels because I am fascinated by the thought of these winged and mysterious creatures interceding between the divine and the individual, the spiritual and human worlds. They have existed long before the Etruscan, Greek, Roman, and Asian civilizations. They have already existed in the very ancient cultures of Mesopotamia and were already flying over the fortified walls of Babylon. In the very early years of Christianity in Rome, the "angels" were represented without wings for they reminded the people of the winged goddess of victory Nicolitte Caccioni in his book "Angels Necessarii" poetically stated that after many centuries when the gods and goddesses of ancient Rome were forgotten, the angel slowly grew its wings back...

"ANGEL with Owl," by Dudley Diaz

The subjects of goddesses have often been depicted in my sculptures. It signifies the spiritual aspect of a "god" being that of a life-giver, being the provider of nourishment. It is my way of seeing the positive side of life: looking forward to the future, hoping. Life goes on even if we are surrounded by wars and death.

Dudley Peter Cachilo of sculptures, "Images of the Sacred," is showing at the Galleria Duemila (230 Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati City) until July 1. Call 8159999.

PHILIPPINE Association of Printmakers

Print show at the German Club

FROM A SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITION IN Singapore, the Philippine Association of Printmakers will be exhibiting at the German Club of Manila.

Featured artists are Ashie Abalos, Paisly Aviado, Chris Reyner, Benjie Tuvera Cabrera, Florence Cinco, Fil Delacruz, Anne Delacruz, Raul Isidro, Alfredo and Bernard Tenoperas.

They will exhibit affordable works done in woodcuts, intaglios, serigraphs and collagraphs.

The show will open on June 26 at 6 p.m. with refreshments and art patronage fee. Is also Dhagat-as-guard of honor.

The German Club Manila is located at the Penthouse of Eurovilla 1, 119 Vil. Hall. Dr. Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. Call 8179551.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Veloso

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Angel 'not a monster'

TV execs say the actress is still a Kapuso, although she didn't accept the coveted lead role in 'Marimar'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

INGRATA. (INGRATE). *Malaki ang ulo (swell-headed). Monster.*"

Wilma Galvante, GMA 7 senior vice president for Entertainment, is inviting a litany of disparaging adjectives being hurled against star Angel Locsin.

The young actress was deluged with negative publicity after she reportedly made "insensitive pronouncements" in the media, during the press conference of "Majelo," the movie she co-produced and top-bills.

It was reported that she had turned down the lead role in the forthcoming Kapuso remake of "Marimar."

"It wasn't officially offered to her," Galvante explains. "Of course, she was considered, but when we learned of her plans to take it easy after Rated Krystala and to study fashion design in London, we decided to look [around]. There were others in the lineup."

Recruiting to various reports, over a dozen actresses auditioned for the role—including Kaylin, Ea Wina Udell, Jennylyn Mercado, Hazelnie Ibasis and Iza Calzado. The role eventually went to Marian Rivera.

Clearing the air

Galvante insists not: "We just want to clear the air. Angel didn't turn down the role out of arrogance or spite. When she declined, the network understood. She made this decision with the network's approval. She does not do Tuyuk. She has been doing GMA 7 shows nonstop since 'Idolanin' three years ago."

Locsin asked to meet with her, the TV exec recounts.

"She was frightened," Galvante recalls. "She cried."

According to a source, Locsin felt stigmatized by the network in the face of the misunderstanding.

Galvante can't understand why the network is being blamed for the bad press. "Hindi naman ayan dadagdag ng ratings nya. Hindi naman ayan magpapataas ng kita ng network. Bakit ba ganoon ang tingin?"

The Kapuso exec also reiterates that she met with Locsin's father, Angel

ANGEL 11

DID YOU KNOW...

Protecting Diether

"I'D DEFINITELY BID TO PRODUCE," As the country gears up for the rainy season, actor Diether Ocampo knows he'll be urged practically by the police officers's jacket—a treasured gift from a good friend who works at the Gen Francisco Chief's Inc. comment. "It goes well with a couple with the shirt and jeans," says Diet, who is reportedly fussy with clothes.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOJO CRUZ

"I want my phone to be screamin' Christina!"

CHRISTINA AGUILERA

Back to Basics Tour

LIVE IN TACLOBAN

JULY 6, 2007

No time for mush

It's still career first for Judey and Ryan

By Marinel R. Cruz

COOKING IS A STRESS BUSTER for actress Judy Ann Santos. It's not unusual for movie or TV co-workers to see Judey cooking on the set.

"I find the need to cook when I'm tired. And it's one way work keeps me away from the kitchen. I just bring my cooking stuff to the set—so I get to cook for everybody, too," Judey told a group of writers in a gathering for her newest soap, "Twinkle Dal."

Judey took up a four-month Basic and Advance Cooking course at the Center for Asian Culinary Studies where she graduated with honors.

"I plan to continue studying. I just had to work on this show para may panibagong ako sa [a-Asia," the actress quipped.

In the new series, Judey gets to cook and act as well.

TAKE FIVE

Also portraying the role of Twinkle Cortez, who dreams of being a great chef.

"That series is tailor-made for Judey," said director Jerry B. Quintos. "The viewers will also learn a lot about Filipino food."

"Twinkle" is Judey's fourth

SEE JUDY 11

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GB1	NEXT	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER		
GB3	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER		
	OCEAN'S 13	THE INVISIBLE	NEXT	
ATC	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER		
	NEXT	THE INVISIBLE	OCEAN'S 13	
ACC	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	THE HOROMBRES	SHREK
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Rediscovering the 'komiks' wellspring

Escapism, from page to screen and beyond

MARS Ravelo's Flash Bardon

By Oliver H. Pulumbarit
Contributor

FOR DECADES, KOMIKS WAS GENerally known as weekly tagalog anthologies or newspaper, an alternative form of entertainment cycled in dozens of differently themed titles. The information-hungry audience once ate it up, but now it is slowly vanishing from the newsstands.

Three days, small publishers and independent book printers release another and another movie on their own, offending a different segment of the audience.

The revival of the multi-genre komiks medium, supported by the government, was discussed during the first Komiks Congress held in February. This was met with mixed reactions by the komiks artists and consumers.

The following month, komiks author-turned-filmmaker Carlo Caparas launched his "Komiks Summit" script-writing summit on tour, an endeavor backed by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. Caparas and his wife Donna Villacorta are spending an estimated P300,000 for the most promising stories.

Crossing over

Komiks characters have been crossing over to other media for decades. TV translations of komiks classics "Darna," "Captain Barbell," and "Babalong" have done well ratings-wise, along with original fantasy shows such as "Mulawin," "Encantadia" and "Rubirosa," according to Lily-Ann Rasonable, GMA 7's assistant vice president for drama.

"Women have come to appreciate high-quality programs," said Rasonable. "Housewives used to be the core audience for soaps. But with fantasy shows, we now have kids and teens tuning in to the top-rated primetime block. There are also many shows by creative geniuses like Carlo Caparas and Mars Ravelo that our producers can modernize and offer to the new audiences."

ABS-CBN has similarly tapped two old-is classics—examples are "Bampirang Kabe," "Pedro Penduko" and "Darna." The long-running "Komiks" has also adapted old comics such as Lamberto Avellana's "Ilaw Bombo."

Lyle Ilarde, an executive producer of Komiks shows, hints of Pedro Penduko." apparent that published material can be made into worldwide programs. "A fantasy show is expensive to produce but ... we enjoy watching them," she said.

Filipinos "Lasting" Cycling "yellow" of Premiere: 8 Cycling "Tours of Filipino Brothers"), Regie Ravelo (daughter of Mars Ravelo).

Mars Ravelo, who authored over 200 komiks novels, Dery Alangalan (editor komiks-romance movies and creator-of publisher of "Wanted" and "Hiwa"), and Carlo Caparas (author-illustrator of the acclaimed "Isinan Taranusan" graphic novel) all recently shared with Inquirer Entertainment their thoughts on the art form, its cross-media transcendence and recent developments aimed at resuscitating the industry.

What is the significance of the Komiks Congress to readers and creators? Are you optimistic that this will lead to a revival of komiks?

Cycling: Yes, I'm optimistic that it will. Before other forms of entertainment, the comic book was a part of many people's lives. The Komiks Congress could accomplish a revival, with the help of the NCCA and Carlo Caparas.

Vergara: While I feel that the was very promising for the industry, I wish that specific action points to keep-start the process had been tackled.

You have to look at it from a business point of view. It's easy to entertaining, it will sell. You can put whatever content you want to teach in a well-written story that entertains.

What's important is to train creators ... We have a lot of talented artists here; it's important to teach them to actually put together a comic book.

Ravelo: My utmost effort to revive the komiks industry is unfeasible. There are a lot of talented writers and illustrators, old and current. A lot of Carlo Caparas' students are still alive. There are the Alangalan brothers who would be tapped but, the very people who were shepherd when the industry took a nosedive.

Alangalan: I greeted the news of the Komiks Congress with much optimism and enthusiasm. It seemed at the time to be the first serious concerted effort to revive the komiks industry by "komiks," I mean the inexpensive, flagship content geared for the mass-need distribution nationwide. Those aimed in mind with the dictum of the komiks department of Ada Publishing in 2005.

I am part of a younger generation of creators who have never had the **self-publishing** fix. It's pure and who have managed to get a new industry going based on new concepts. I strongly feel that if the komiks industry were to be revived, my voice is important. Sadly, there was little opportunity to get heard during the congress. I feel that there was more grandstanding than real work done there on, which was very disappointing.

What do you think of Carlo Caparas' efforts?

Alangalan: Personally, I am very glad that he put up P300,000 of his own to help in the effort. But as president, "bring on employment"—that was a bit frustrating. I think you can say that only if komiks are again being published nationwide.

Still, it's great that ... the Komiks Caravan, the roving caravanserai, are creating excitement; is a generation that didn't even see the komiks industry in its peak.

Ravelo: Will in his publishing komiks novel? He have several unpublished novels and illustrated komiks in the can. P300,000 pesos is interested ...

Who, to you, is the foremost creator of Filipino komiks?

Alangalan: For me, it's Francisco V. Coching. His offspring is Mr. Cagaraw, who has been given the title Rambo King—and who, in fact, has done much worthwhile and commendable work for the industry and pop culture in general.

BY FRANCISCO V. Coching

BY GERRY Alangalan

Coching: Carlo Caparas has earlier admitted that he's a fan of my husband's.

Since translations of "Darna" and "Captain" to other media are other people's talent, what compensation do you have to deal with?

Vergara: There are limited, so I've seen

MARS Ravelo's Flash Bardon

How tick a source are comic books for stage, cinema and television material?

Vergara: It can be a rich source, but only if people are enticed to read a material, because that's for the producers to pick it up. With "Darna," a named with people pass that second.

Ravelo: The "Lastikman" series will soon be shown on Channel 2, and negotiations with Channel 7 are underway for "Impostor." Even before TV took over as the top entertainment medium for many Filipinos, we were a "reading people" because of komiks. My father wanted to impart the highest values in the lowest form of society, with komiks as literature. He lived and died for komiks.

Coching: Most of my husband's creations were made into movies by Sampaguita Pictures, Premier Productions and other film companies. He wrote and drew his own stories, so he got sole credit for the properties. During Martial Law, paper became scarce and many things weren't allowed to be in the stories. He began using Dogo" was changed to "Sa Pipilat ng Batas." He stopped doing stories in 1972. He felt disappointed, resenting wanted no part. He didn't want to work for Marcos' pro-companies. Of the 30 novels, 50 stories stories that were commercially successful. His "Pedro Penduko" aired as a series on ABS-CBN. The station has asked his synopses of his old novels, hopefully for revival.

Alangalan: Komiks having a source of material for TV and movies only goes to show its importance in our culture. I would like to see new ones like "Darna" translated for TV. My concern is the lack of competition for the artists involved. It's a collaborative medium, the product of the efforts of both writer and artist. When their work is translated to a different medium, they should be given equal credit, and benefit financially.

Striking gold with 'Eureka'

WITH ITS MIXUP SCI-FI ELEMENTS and small-town charm, "Eureka" reveals untapped gold in sunny parts of the world.

Lauded by critics, it attracted only five million viewers during its '05 debut season on the no. 1 Channel, leaving even the cult hit, "Battlestar Galactica," in its wake.

Now "Eureka" is on the Hindi, Wednesdays, at 8 p.m.

Blending the best elements from "The X-Files" and "Northern Exposure," the series tells of a remote town in Northwest Admit to that is populated by the country's top geniuses. The government keeps this town hidden from the rest of the world.

Way out

Since the cast has the tough job of making viewers believe the wits-out premise, they play a big part in the show's success. Rounding up the ensemble is Colin Ferguson, who plays Jack Carter, a single dad who reluctantly agrees to become the town Sheriff's new sheriff.

Ferguson was trained as a stand-up comic, TV junkies might remember him from his guest spot on "Becker," "Malcolm in the Middle" and "Old Music," or from lead role in the CBS sitcom "Courting Alex." On the big screen, he starred opposite Mandy Moore and Diane Keaton in the romance comedy "Because I Said So."

TV veterans

"Eureka" also stars Debralee Scott as Beverly Barlow, the town's intelligent and attractive psychiatrist-spiritualist. A veteran actor of TV and film, she spoke of Deputy Gregory Hobbs' ("Virtual Sex," "I Love's Blue") has landed spots on 50 sitcom credits throughout her 25-year career.

Ferguson and Nimmons, directors the elementary required to ensure the hit series ... and also add shutterbugs, rocket science and... molecular biology.

What was the oddest thing about your new upbringing?

Colin Ferguson: I moved to Hong Kong when I was about 10, back in the '80s when the international banking scene had gone crazy. Lots of wheeling, dealing, land, Connection and a bunch of different places.

Debrah Beverton: I changed my name from "Deborah" to "Debrah" when I was younger. I was on a rooftop in Rome; a friend gave it to me as a gift. I never liked "Deborah", I tried to change it to Miriam when I was 6.

Be either of you have an interest in science?

CF: I've always loved science. I love documentaries and always like satisfying up on the new gadgets and stuff. I did have a great education when I was living in Asia (as a child). I didn't really understand how advanced the teaching was until I got back to North America.

DB: I love it. It's specifically fascinated by chemistry. My hobby actually, is molecular biology, specifically ribosomes, which is like processing plants of a cell from the atomic level. I have actually been studying my cells in between jobs. I am still on a nice long road to getting my Bachelors. Actually when the script was sent to me, I was taking a couple of years off to study molecular biology.

So ultimately you'd like to work in a lab?

DB: I'm planning this degree before I come I love to travel to third world countries. In the '80s

I was in Nicaragua and ... and also did a humanitarian trip to Hong Kong when I was about 10, back in the '80s when the international banking scene had gone crazy. Lots of wheeling, dealing, land, Connection and a bunch of different places.

What were your thoughts when you were you first offered a sci-Fi show?

CF: I did a lot of pruning and a lot of movies, I was looking for a long time since and ("Garden") could be funny and charming; I got very excited.

DB: I love the sci-fi genre because you get to go beyond what your typical life might be. I like playing housewives but it is just so fleeting my regular life. As an actor, when you get into sci-fi you can explore more complex issues and get your reality skewed.

Debrah, you starred in another sci-fi series, "Earth 2," in 1994. Although well received, it was axed after one season. What did you learn from the experience?

DB: "Earth 2" was a great experience. He worked almost 90 hours a week for 13 months. I'm still close to a number of the cast members. The cause were a lot of money and so they couldn't afford to keep it on the air. So what I learnt from that is just how important it is to stay on budget.

Eureka's timing couldn't be better. Do you agree that science is now established road?

CF: You look at shows like "Myth Busters" and documentaries like "An Inconvenient Truth" and it's clear that science is now very popular. A lot of the attention is, people get to sort of learn stuff.

It's been 20 years ago, we didn't know nearly as much as we know now. It's been exponential what's happening in research. People have the access to just to go online to learn anything about anything. It's quite surprising what's going on in space, because education is now more available to the average person than ever before.

DEBRAH Parenton as Beverly Barlows

COLIN Ferguson as Jack Carter

Top 100 greatest American films

The American Film Institute revealed the top 100 with a new list of the greatest American films of all time. Criteria included: feature-length artistically acclaimed, historic significance, cultural impact, ratings, popular over time and produced or substantially held in America.

1	Citizen Kane	1941	51	West Side Story	1961
2	The Godfather	1972	52	Taxi Driver	1976
3	Casablanca	1942	53	The Deer Hunter	1978
4	Raging Bull	1980	54	M*A*S*H	1970
5	Gone with the Wind	1939	55	North by Northwest	1959
6	Lawrence of Arabia	1962	56	Jaws	1975
7	The Wizard of Oz	1939	57	Rocky	1976
8	Citizen Kane	1941	58	The Gold Rush	1925
9	The Godfather	1972	59	Nashville	1975
10	Casablanca	1942	60	Sunrise	1927
11	Raging Bull	1980	61	Bonnie and Clyde	1967
12	Gone with the Wind	1939	62	Apocalypse Now	1979
13	Lawrence of Arabia	1962	63	Mr. Smith Goes to Washington	1939
14	The Wizard of Oz	1939	64	Treasure of the Sierra Madre	1948
15	City Lights	1931	65	Annie Hall	1977
16	The Searchers	1956	66	Boogie Nights	1997
17	Psycho	1960	67	Network	1976
18	Some Like It Hot	1959	68	The African Queen	1951
19	The Graduate	1967	69	Amadeus (Director's Cut)	1984
20	It's a Wonderful Life	1946	70	Raging Bull (Director's Cut)	1980
21	Chinatown	1974	71	Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?	1966
22	Some Like It Hot	1959	72	Unforgiven	1992
23	The Grapes of Wrath	1940	73	It Happened One Night	1934
24	It's a Wonderful Life	1946	74	The Best Years of Our Lives	1946
25	To Kill a Mockingbird	1962	75	Schindler's List	1993
26	Mr. Smith Goes to Washington	1939	76	Taxi Driver (Director's Cut)	1976
27	High Noon	1952	77	Goodfellas	1990
28	All About Eve	1950	78	It's a Wonderful Life	1946
29	Double Indemnity	1944	79	Platoon	1986
30	Apocalypse Now	1979	80	The Sting	1973
31	The Maltese Falcon	1941	81	Dog Day Afternoon	1975
32	The Godfather Part II	1974	82	The Last Picture Show	1971
33	One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest	1975	83	Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb	1964
34	Sunset Blvd.	1950	84	Terms of Endearment	1983
35	The Bridge on the River Kwai	1957	85	Reds	1981
36	Shane	1953	86	Lawrence of Arabia (Director's Cut)	1962
37	The Best Years of Our Lives	1946	87	Tootsie	1982
38	Fargo	1996	88	Cabaret	1972
39	The Silence of the Lambs	1991	89	The Philadelphia Story	1940
40	Saving Private Ryan	1998	90	Mean Streets	1973
41	Dr. Strangelove	1964	91	Goodfellas	1990
42	The Sixth Sense	1999	92	The Treasure of the Sierra Madre	1948
43	Unforgiven	1992	93	King Kong	1933
44	Blade Runner	1982	94	Pulp Fiction	1994
45	Midnight Cowboy	1969	95	The Last Picture Show	1971
46	The Philadelphia Story	1940	96	Do the Right Thing	1989
47	Shane	1953	97	Blade Runner	1982
48	It Happened One Night	1934	98	Broken Arrow	1996
49	A Streetcar Named Desire	1951	99	Toy Story	1995
50	Rear Window	1954	100	Alien	1979
51	Intolerance	1916			
52	The Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring	2001			

SOURCE: American Film Institute

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1 THE INVISIBLE
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Newspaper Countdown

STA. ROSA

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 ZODIAC
3 ANGELS
4 PAN'S LABYRINTH
5 THE INVISIBLE

LIPA

1 ANGELS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
4 OCEAN'S 13
5 PAN'S LABYRINTH

DASMARINAS

1 BLOOD and CHOCOLATE
2 PAN'S LABYRINTH
3 THE INVISIBLE
4 ANGELS
5 FANTASTIC FOUR

ANGELES

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 ANGELS
3 ZODIAC
4 THE INVISIBLE

IMUS

1 ANGELS
2 THE INVISIBLE
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 OCEAN'S 13
5 BORDERTOWN
6 BILIP

STARMILLS

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 ZODIAC
3 PHANG KITA BIGAN!
4 ANGELS
5 THE INVISIBLE
6 THE CONDEMNED

BACOLOD

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 THE CONDEMNED
3 WHISPER
4 RESERVE
5 ANGELS
6 I LICKY YOU

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2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
4 OCEAN'S 13
5 PAN'S LABYRINTH

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1 BLOOD and CHOCOLATE
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3 THE INVISIBLE
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3 ZODIAC
4 THE INVISIBLE

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Angel 'not a monster'

From page F1

Colemenares, and manager, Becky Aguila.

"Her father, a very passionate man, explained why his daughter couldn't sign a contract right away," says Galvante. "He said it wouldn't be fair to the network if Angel signed up though she wouldn't work in the next two months."

Instead, Entertainment voted to contract Agnilla, but limited she was one of the country. The beauty-to-your contract in question is Lorain's re-marriage short after with GMA Artist Center.

According to Ms Horacio, assistant vice president and head of Artist Center, "even though the contract is finished, we are still doing negotiations with Viva to have Angel as behalf of Artist Center."

No time for mush

From page F1

soap with Quinto-Dee Guinevia co-directors. Ricky Lee is creative manager and Jenny Quintalan is line acting.

How did you feel when the show was presented to you?

I was excited. Actually, a show that would showcase my talent as a chef!

Would you like to have a cooking show of your own?

Yes, definitely. I find locally produced shows boring...so-of-Interactive.

Ryan Agoncillo, her real-life partner and love interest in the show, and I think we can work on a cooking video first. The proceeds will go to my Teach a Heart Foundation.

Your romance has gone on for so long. "Reynala," what milestone in your relationship can we expect from this movie online?

Whatever improvement is going to happen, baka sa bahay, sa set ng "Isabella" mangyayari. We are still concentrating on our work. We plan to secure our future before settling down.

Ryan: You know, we agreed not to talk much on the set. Helping holding hands o kindness gyn. We don't want other people on the set to feel ill at ease.

If your partner were a dish, what would he/she be?

Judays. Ryan is like lechon - expensive, pero Ayala young, tender and juicy, masarap pa rin. Lahat ng, can ako-break him?

Ryan: Judays is like chicken inihaw - lalagyan mo ng suka, maraming spices.

"Isabella" premieres tonight at 8:00 PM, after "TV Patrol." It also stars Gino Rivera, Rosanna Roces, Connie Reyes, Ana Jegonzon, Derek Ramsay and Michel Jana.

A colorful gallery of rogues

"OCEAN'S THIRTEEN" IS A FUN CAPER AND has a lot of heart, too, because Danny Ocean and his gang mates have outdazzled (or their latest complicated scheme to avenge the betrayal of their beloved mentor (RIP) Reuben Tishkoff by a vicious hotel-casino lord (Al Pacino).

Trouble is, the fun soon gets tedious, as Steven Soderbergh's latest sequel turns out to be long on show details but short on entertaining, revealing plotting.

In fact, the film sometimes feels more like a crime documentary rather than a feature film as the action slows down to give way to detailed schemes that take along time to set up.

Fast, fortunately

Of course, once the elaborate plan is finally put into play, everything happens fast and furiously and the film revs up to a truly astonishing finale.

How clever Ocean and his avenging brothers-in-crime are?

The problem isn't with the movie's dumb-bang denouement, it's with the minutes and minutes of relatively static "planning" and "planning" scenes that precede it.

Let's hope that most action film buffs are patient enough to sit through these relatively slow and low scenes, in the eager expectation of engaging rich rewards later in the film.

To be sure, the planning scenes aren't slow and low all the time. Now and then, a complication or another kind of problem is thrown in, just to keep everyone on his toes—and moviegoers interested.

Also interesting is the colorful rogue's gallery that Soderbergh rents out—denizens of the outer and crime worlds who will do anything and everything to make a buck—give or take a million.

It's ironic that, in this feisty and gender-equal company, Ocean and his boys come off as vehicular heights, on points of contrast, despite their own propensity for breaking the law.

The point here is that they're defending their beleaguered mentor; so they end up on the "good" guys, after all.

George Clooney, Brad Pitt and Matt Damon are confident at playing around with this beer-ambitious conundrum, and it also helps that Al Pacino is able to turn himself into an arch-villain worthy of their most devious moves and strategies.

And special mention must be made of Elliot Gould as Reuben's all-powerful frontman, who combines wisdom and a slithering cunning to beat his enemies at their own game. Barking may already be in her 50s, but she's still hot to trot—in every way.

Too technical

So, all's well with "Ocean's Thirteen"—except in structure, which plays to action less and exit for the most part, until it hits the jackpot in the end. That calculating tone is a calculated move, so let's hope that the gamble pays off in terms of viewers' reactions.

The one part, however, we found it too technical to really grab us where we lived and breathed.

Nestor U. Torre

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2 NEXT 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 10:00

3 EIGA SAI 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

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Kamikaze Girls 4:00 pm
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ENTERTAINMENT

Text or post feedback:

NEW MTV VJs (from left) Arnok, Iñi and Kat

Not just 2, but 3 new VJs

By Pachuko Cornejo
Contributor

A "THREE WHITE" LADIES a female radio jock, a former economics show co-host, and a newbie found refuge into the veterans' circle of the MTV VJ Hunt Finals Night on Friday at the SM Mall of Asia. There were supposed to be only two winners.

Arch Meñoza (A.K.A. DJ Arch of Magic 89.9 FM), Kat Alano (erstwhile co-host at "Insomnia"), and Jonathan "Iñi" Hinds (cousin of an upstart band) got the judges' nod as MTV's newest batch of VJs.

On Friday, 12 contenders were given the spotlight to prove their worth in several tests that ranged from conducting mock interviews with celebrity guests to answering kinky questions from a wisecracking TV comedian, and talking extemporaneously to introduce comic relics.

Seen on the auditorium, dwindling ten of the winners, were obviously nervous. Most of them appeared to have flunked the mock interviews—with the exception of Iñi, who fished out interesting replies from Friends 90 on the secrets of being a good DJ.

The trophy quizzes asked by comedian Tado to throw off the aspirants were a gas, though.

"Kung pamorsonal ang genetic name ng gamit sa dagsal, bakit yellow ang tawag dito ng pinoy sa sasakyan?"

"Ang kanin ko, pag nag-expire na, is ang tawag nito?"

These seemingly incomprehensible, especially to those who spoke English with a twang but couldn't express themselves in Tagalog.

Breaking the mold

MTV VJs in the Philippines used to remind and look almost exactly like their Western counterparts. Examples are Dennis Rose, RC Montero, Belinda Ramos, Cindy Kimberly, KC Concepcion, Patty Laurel, Shamcey Supsup and Sarah Meneses.

Last Friday, it seemed like the mold was about to be broken. A contender named Shawee, dark-skinned, outfitty, sporting an elaborate hairstyle, elicited the loudest applause every time she went onstage. Her 2-minute ditz stunned on the verge of becoming a winner with her distinct voice, good interviewing skills and zany demeanor.

She didn't even land in the Top 6.

Arch, on the other hand, didn't make much of an impression. She had an authentic smile and actually looked like a gangling kid in shorts, sneakers and knee-high socks. Her nervousness showed each time she walked offstage after doing her spiels. But it helped that she has a radio personality who knows live music and the mic routine.

Before the winners were announced, Iñi was off with some special awards from sponsors: the Samsung MP3 Music Personality Award and the Nestlé Fresh Juice Award. (She was once a Fresh's model.)

Kat didn't look like a winner, either, though she was loudly applauded. It helped that she was a familiar face on TV and struck a sexy provocative pose after doing one of her signature VJ show cues, "Pucha!..." And she was voted out.

If anyone shunned the Caucasian-looking MTV VJ stereotype, it was Iñi. Although he wasn't exactly morose, he projected individuality and confidence without shrugging off his being Pinoy.

While some of the male contenders were ripped duchess or hip-hop jump, Iñi flaunted a retro rave move fashion statement complete with "My Humona" eye necklace/Chuck Doc Martens boots. And while the rest tell-for rounded like an American rapper or British subject, he spoke with a neutral accent spiced with street-wise lingoing.

Iñi's greatest treasure savoured when it was time to show off a persona that would complement his image as a VJ. Flanked by two burly bodyguards, Iñi strode onstage dressed as "a congressman from Magantry." He put on an act like he had a son who joined the MTV VJ Hunt and was asking for his own room service. Not since he had four years earlier been in Congress, he might as well use his influence and give cash. It was hilarious.

HUGE Lioness Rips Myri wide(ly) asleep

NEW Mutya ng Pilipinas Zaphanie Myers

Kelly Cervantes

Mutya '06 spills Miss U secrets

By Jervin Rallos

WHEN JAIMES RIPO WENT BAGGED the Miss Universe title last month, not everyone was happy, including some of her fellow contestants.

"The reaction among the candidates was 50-50," said Mutya ng Pilipinas '06 Shirley Ann Bankers, who represented her nation's capital last December in the international competition held in Mexico.

She confirmed reports that Brazil's Natalia Guimaraes, who placed second, did not congratulate Ripo.

But the 23-year-old Filipino-Norwegian was quick to defend Ripo: "She's a very pretty girl, and the way she presented herself during the pageant was outstanding."

But, Kirby said, Japanese lawmaker Yuriko Koike, 50, "could have done better."

The Japanese beauty queen drew flak for her online diary that chronicled events in the pageant. In one entry, she proclaimed she was going to win, subtly saying the other favorites were losing points.

Not Asian?

Rita also wrote that Philippine representative Anna Theresia Liviano cost the crown from photographed with her, saying, "I'm not Asian."

An online pageant magazine clarified the incident. Globalbeauties.com said what happened was, Liviano saw a photographer taking pictures of the Asian contestants. She approached the photographer and said, "Hey, how about me? Am I not Asian?"

Kirby said the candidates knew of Rita's blog entries but did not confront her because of the risk of creating a commotion. "There were 77 girls from different countries in one hotel for one month. If we had confrontational confrontations because of some things done wrong, this could have been World War III," she surmised.

Last Friday, Kirby passed the Mutya crown to new winner Zaphanie Mayers (Miss Baja, Puerto Princesa) and Miss Binibini Maritoni (Mutya Bayanan), during ceremonies held at the Olympia City Convention Center.

MUTYA 2006 Kirby Ann Bankers, plus Miss Norway

Dora the Explorer on board

DORA, THE INQUISITIVE AND DETERMINED problem solver on children's television, is now on board Singapore Airlines flights.

Starting this month, young travelers will fly with Dora and her monkey companion Boots, an enabled copy of them "Dora the Explorer" characters to accompany SIA passengers travelers aged 12 and below.

Other giveaways on SIA include activity sets, zip bags, Dora watches and Dora monkey slippers.

They are available on the direct lines this September between Manila and Singapore.

"Dora The Explorer," the cartoon series, will also be shown on the inflight entertainment System, KidsWorld.

The four for Kids channel will likewise show the series "Spongebob Squarepants,"

"DORA The Explorer" giveaways

"Ingrao" and "The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron," plus the movies "Hamtaro" and "The Rescuers."

KID FIT

'Ratatouille'

LINGUINI IS A kitchen boy who doesn't know how to cook. Remy is a rat whose impossible dream is to become a gourmet chef.

Most facts in Walt Disney Pictures and Pixar Animation Studio's new animated adventure "Ratatouille."

Although they start out together—Linguini needing to hang onto his job and Remy hoping to finally get his chance to work in a real live restaurant kitchen—Remy and Linguini gradually become buddies when learns they secretly control the cute rat.

Voicing Linguini is Lou Romano, who had served as a production designer on "The Incredibles" and had voiced some roles in earlier productions.

Opening soon nationwide, "Ratatouille" is distributed by Buena Vista International through Columbia Pictures.